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REYNOLDS HISTORICAL  
GENEALOGY COLLECTION

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# The Historical Record

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION

Vol. 1

DEVOTED PRINCIPALLY TO

## The Early History of Wyoming Valley

AND CONTIGUOUS TERRITORY

WITH

## NOTES AND QUERIES

BIOGRAPHICAL, ANTIQUARIAN, GENEALOGICAL



EDITED BY F. C. JOHNSON, M. D.

Vol. I—SEPTEMBER 1886 TO AUGUST 1887.

WILKES-BARRE, PA.

Press of The Wilkes-Barre Record

MDCCCLXXXVII





177 60  
Miss Mary Jane Inman  
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### CORRECTION OF ERRORS.

Page 97. The Average Price of Flour in Philadelphia from 1785 to 1828 is given at \$17.42 per hundred pounds. The figures should be \$7.42.

Page 213. Second column, line 18 for barked, read backed. Line 22, bark lands should be back lands.

Page 214. First column, third line, Wednesday, May 20, should be 26, Friday below, should be 28th; line 24 should read Decker's. In line 44 read 569 equals 686.

Page 218. Second column, line 14, should read Mr. Conover's volume, instead of Mr. Corwin's.





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## The Early History of Wyoming Valley

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BIOGRAPHICAL, ANTIQUARIAN, GENEALOGICAL

TOGETHER WITH THE MARRIAGES AND DEATHS OF THE PRESENT DAY

IN LUZERNE COUNTY

EDITED BY F. C. JOHNSON, M. D.

Vol 1

SEPTEMBER 1886

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Press of The Wilkes-Barre Record

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# The Historical Record

VOL. I.

SEPTEMBER, 1886.

No. 1.

## Recollections of James W. Chapman.

The Montrose *Republican* has an article signed C., which stands for J. W. Chapman, father of Mrs. S. L. Brown, of Wilkes-Barre, in which the writer quotes from a recent issue of the *Record* and adds some interesting comments of his own. Mr. Chapman thus corrects an inadvertence which crept into the article:

The Wilkes-Barre *Record* has been publishing some extracts from the *Gleaner*, a Wilkes-Barre paper published in 1811. The introduction to the article says, published by Asher Miner and Steuben Butler; but I think it must have been Charles Miner and Butler, as I know that Charles Miner, the founder of the *Gleaner*, was associated with Steuben Butler in publishing for some time, and that he sold out the *Gleaner* establishment as early as 1816 or before, to Isaac A. Chapman, an uncle of mine; for I was there attending school during the winter of 1816-17, when the paper was published by him. Charles Miner, on leaving the *Gleaner*, went into the publication of a paper at Doylestown, Bucks County, with his brother Asher, I believe, and subsequently established *The Village Record* at West Chester, which he made a very popular newspaper. Asher Miner (and possibly Mr. Butler), was engaged in publishing a paper in Wilkes-Barre called *The Luzerne Federalist*, still earlier than the *Gleaner*.

\*

"March 20. The Commissioners of the Wilkes-Barre Meeting House and Bank Lottery have appointed Thomas Dyer, Esq., treasurer of their Board, upon whom the holders of fortunate tickets may call for payment of prizes. Ebenezer Bowman, Lord Butler, Mathew Covell, managers."

Only think—of a meeting house, now called a church, to be built from the avails of a lottery! But such was the fact. The old meeting house first built in Wilkes-Barre on the Public Square where now stands the Court House—for years the only house of worship in town, having a very high steeple, occupied alternately by the Presbyterians and the Episcopalians, and finally by the Methodists, was originally built (in part at least) by means of a lottery! I was aware of that fact from hearing much about it from my parents—one of the commissioners con-

cerned in it, Peleg Tracy, having married my mother's sister; and another, George Haines, married a sister of my father. Wonder if they licensed drinking saloons in those days for means to build churches?

\*

"April 19. Thomas Parke (Col. 129th Regiment Pennsylvania Militia) calls a meeting of the commissioned and staff officers at the house of Joseph Chapman, Jr., in Bridgewater, armed and in uniform, as the law directs."

Col. Parke was well known as one of the early settlers of that period. He began the farm since known as Parkevale, near Springville, and was one of the County Commissioners of old Luzerne when it included Susquehanna County. He was the father of the late Benj. Parke, Esq., and was a gentleman of very dignified bearing as a military officer. As was the custom in those days, he called out all the officers of the regiment once a year for a training drill, and generally at my father's house in old Bridgewater, now Brooklyn.

\*

"April 26. A complete workman is engaged to finish the vessel now on the stocks in this port. It is contemplated to have her launched and fit for the shareholders to dine in on the 4th of July. Those who are in arrears, it is presumed, will pay up their shares with the promptitude which their engagements and the importance of the undertaking demand. As no mention of the vessel is made in the report of the Independence Day celebration, we presume the work was not completed in time."

I think this must refer to a vessel built about that period at Wilkes-Barre mainly by the enterprise of a prominent business man, then well known, by the name of John P. Arndt. Elisha Mack, an early settler from Lyme, Conn., at "Mack's Corners," in Brooklyn, who was a ship carpenter by trade, was employed to "boss" the job. It was said to be nicely done, and when launched into the Susquehanna, Capt. Joseph Chapman Sr., who after being an officer in the Revolution served several years as a sea captain in the West India trade, was chosen to "christen" her as it was called, with a bottle of wine, calling her the "Experiment," if I remember rightly, intended for sale (as well as for sail) at Baltimore or some other place down the







river—I don't know whether as a sloop or a schooner. I believe, however, it proved to be an unsuccessful experiment to the owners, as I think she was wrecked before ever reaching her destination. If I am mistaken in this or any other statement of early events, I hope some antiquarian of earlier years or better posted than I am may volunteer to correct me. c.

Montrose, July 11, '86.

#### Colonial or Provincial.

Many of our writers, especially newspaper historians, use the term colonial to the events in Pennsylvania under the proprietary government. Prior to the purchase by William Penn, it was the *Colony on the Delaware*, afterwards the *Province of Pennsylvania*. New Jersey, Maryland and Pennsylvania were provinces, while Massachusetts, New York, Virginia and others were always colonies until they declared their independence. The governor of a colony was appointed by the Crown—those of the province by the proprietary. Perchance the use of this term colonial as to Pennsylvania arose from the fact that Mr. Hazard, who edited them, misnamed our Provincial Records, Colonial Records. He ought to have known better.—*Dr. W. H. Egle in Harrisburg Telegraph.*

#### An Aged Preacher's Burial.

The funeral of Rev. J. P. Rice was held at Trucksville July 30, at 2 p.m., the remains arriving at Kingston from Hunlock's Creek on the 12:40 p.m. D., L. & W. train. Rev. A. Griffin, of the Kingston M. E. Church officiated, and preached a sermon from the words found in Job 5, 26: "Thou shalt come to thy grave in a full age, like as a shock of corn cometh in in his season." There was a very large attendance of relatives and friends of the deceased. Among the relatives being his aged wife; a brother, Rev. C. L. Rice, of the Wyoming Conference, and stationed at North Fenton, Binghamton District; Dr. Rogers and wife (Mrs. Rogers being a sister) of Huntsville; his three sons, Levi Rice, of Lehman, William, of Harvey's Lake and Lyman, of Dallas; also, a step-daughter, Mrs. Harrison Steele, of Shelby, Ohio, and a stepson, Jacob Rice, with his wife, from Hunlock's Creek, with whom Mr. Rice and his wife were living at the time of his death. Mrs. George Cook, of Three Rivers, Mich., a daughter of the deceased, was not able to be present. Judge James Phoenix and wife, of Beaumont, were also present. Mrs. Phoenix is a sister of the deceased. Interment was made in the cemetery at Trucksville.

Mr. Rice was born in Knowlton Township, N. J., Aug. 22, 1805. He was the son of Rev.

Jacob Rice. He came to Trucksville in May, 1814. He was for many years a class leader, exhorter and local preacher in the M. E. Church. He was possessed of many sterling qualities and leaves behind him a good name, which "is rather to be chosen than great riches."

#### MEDALS GIVEN TO THE INDIANS.

**Brief Description of Five Historical Medals in the Possession of the Wyoming Historical Society—Also of One Which Ought to be, But is Not**

At the fall meeting of the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society, Rev. Horace Edwin Hayden, of this city, read a paper on the various silver and copper medals presented to the American Indians by the sovereigns of England, France and Spain, from 1600 to 1800 and especially of five such medals of George I., of Great Britain, now in the possession of the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society and its members. The same now appears in pamphlet form, also in the second volume of the published proceedings of the society. The paper is a most interesting one, tracing briefly the American discovery and the subsequent treatment by the whites of the aboriginal inhabitants, particularly in the bestowal of medallion tributes, and other presents. France and England early vied with each other in thus seeking to attachment of the Indians. We have space for only a portion of the description of the Wyoming medals. For a more satisfactory idea of the subject the reader is referred to Mr. Hayden's valuable pamphlet. We quote and condense a few paragraphs:

The Indian medals of George I. are the first that bear any especial reference to the peculiar life and pursuits of the Indians. Each of the four medals which I here present for your examination, contains on the obverse the bust of George I., and on the reverse, the device of an Indian hunting the deer. Two of these medals have a historic connection that is interesting.

Those which belong to my own cabinet were discovered about 1858, in the bank of the Ohio River, at Point Pleasant, West Virginia, on the spot where the bloody and stubborn battle of Point Pleasant was fought, in 1774, between the colonists, under General Andrew Lewis, and the combined Indian tribes, under Logan, Cornstalk and Outacite; a battle which began one-half an hour before sunrise, October 10, 1774, and continued, almost without cessation, until sunset the same day. It is more than probable that these two medals were worn by Indian chiefs on that day, and were lost in the conflict or in the flight. They were presented to me by the late Dr.





Samuel Glover Shaw, of Point Pleasant, from his very rich collection of pre-historic and Indian remains. In describing these five medals, I will begin with that one belonging to the society:

1. Wyoming Medal—Obverse, military bust of George I. Legend "George King of Great Britain." Reverse, under a tree to the left stands a deer on a hill. To the right, at the foot of the hill, stands an Indian, with a bow drawn, and in the act of shooting the deer; over all, the sun with his rays. Size, 25-16.

This medal was included in the Chambers Collection, which was purchased and presented to the society in 1853, thus forming the nucleus of the valuable collections now owned by this society. The medal is described in Mr. Chambers' catalogue as "one of the medals presented by George I. to the chiefs of the Six Nations in 1716." As there was no conference with the Indians by any of the colonies of Great Britain in 1716, Chambers' conclusions are merely conjectural. It may have been presented at the conference of the Governor of New York and the Six Nations in 1715 or 1717, but in the very full account of those conferences no reference whatever is made to this or any other medal. Where Mr. C. procured this medal and what its local history, I cannot ascertain; but the above account of it disposes of the impression which somehow has prevailed, that it was the copy referred to by Mr. Miner, or had been received by this society from the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

2. Point Pleasant Medal—Obverse, military bust of George I., draped and laureated, facing right, and 2-16 larger than the head of No. 1. Legend the same as No. 1, "George King of Great Britain." Reverse, same as No. 1, except that the hill is higher, the tree shorter and the Indian larger. Brass. Size 26.

3. Point Pleasant Medal—Obverse, military bust of George I., facing left, and laureated. Legend "Georgius.—Mag. Br. Fra. et Hit. Rex." Reverse, under a tree to the right, which follows the curve of the planchet, an Indian is standing in the posture of one about to run. He holds in his hand a bow from which the arrow has been discharged. To the left, under a second tree which follows the left curve of the planchet, is a deer running at full speed. Between the Indian and the deer stands a bush at the foot of which lies what appears to be a dead deer. There is no sun on the medal. Planchet very thin. Brass. Looped. Size 16.

4. Stearns Medal.—Copper. Almost identical with No. 2. Size 26. In possession of Master Denison Stearns.

5. Jenkins Medal.—Obverse, military bust of George I. The hair does not fall over the

back in a queue but is confined closely by the fillet, which is composed of 12 leaves, and is much smaller than the others. The legend, George King of Great Britain, extends over  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the circumference, while in the other it is only about  $\frac{1}{8}$ . Reverse, The sun; a very large Indian to the right throwing a javelin at a very small deer, which stands to the left at an angle of forty degrees from the Indian. Copper. Very thick. Size 24. This medal, now in the possession of Hon. Steuben Jenkins of Wyoming, Pa., was found on the banks of the Susquehanna at Sunbury, by Mr. J. H. Jenkins.

A copy of No. 2 is known to be in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. It is described in Miner's History of Wyoming, p. 27, and is represented there by an engraving. It will be recognized as a duplicate of No. 2. Mr. Miner gives this account of its discovery: After a general description of the remains of ancient fortifications in the Wyoming Valley, he refers to one "on Jacobs' Plains, or the upper flats in Wilkes-Barre;" gives a detailed account of its appearance, and continues, "in 1814 I visited this fortification in company with the present Chief Justice Gibson and Jacob Cist, Esq. The whole line, although it had been ploughed for more than thirty years, was then distinctly traceable by the eye. Fortune was unexpectedly propitious to our search, for we found a medal bearing on one side the impress of King George the First, dated 1714 (the year he commenced his reign,) on the other an Indian Chief. It was awarded to Mr. Cist, as the most curious and careful in such matters, and by him was deposited with the Philadelphia Historical Society." Mr. Miner adds, in a note, "Should it not be placed with the Indian relics in a museum to be formed in Wilkes-Barre?" I courteously commend this suggestion to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. I think Mr. Miner must be in error as to the date, as none appears on the engravings of the medal, and none appears on any of the four medals just described. Other copies of this medal have been discovered in the State of Pennsylvania, but I have had no time to ascertain their present whereabouts.

#### Early Doctors of Huntington Valley.

Dr. Charles E. Gaylord was probably the first permanently settled physician in Huntington Valley. His family were among the first settlers of the Susquehanna Co. His father died in the Revolutionary War and his brother, Lieut. Asher Gaylord, fell in the massacre at Wyoming. The doctor settled in Huntington soon after the cessation of Indian hostilities. His only child was Henderson Gaylord, who afterwards was made wealthy by the coal deposits on his land.

The next physician was Dr. Crystal, who





came soon after 1800. His wife was a Miss Stookey, of Salem.

Dr. Griswold afterwards located near Town Hill, and practiced about 20 years. Dr. John Weston practiced awhile as the successor of Dr. Gaylord, but moved to the State of New York where his children yet reside.

These early physicians were succeeded by Drs. Pickering, Jones, Davenport, Crawford, Hayden and others, who each resided in Huntington some years, then sought locations elsewhere.

Dr. Sidney H. Warner located in Huntington in 1833 and practiced nearly half a century. One daughter is the wife of Dr. Clinton Bacon, of Huntington and a son, Dr. John Nelson Warner, is practicing dentistry in Wilkes-Barre, the mother, nee Cornelia Machette, of Philadelphia, making her home with the latter. Dr. Warner almost literally stood head and shoulders over his followers, physically and mentally.

A few years after Dr. Warner came Dr. William Barrett, who practiced at Cambra a score of years. Originally from Gettysburg, he hastened thither after the battle and bravely assisted in the care of the sick and wounded.

Dr. Mason Crary was one of the early settlers and the first physician of Salem Township. He was a native of Stonington, Conn.

In 1846 Dr. L. C. White located in Shickshinny and practiced several years. The following year he was joined by his brother-in-law, Dr. Charles Parker. The latter practiced here until his death, at the age of about 80, Dr. White removing to Mississippi.

Dr. William D. Hamilton has practiced in Shickshinny more than 25 years. Later comers are Drs. Kamerly, Dodson, Chapin, Rogers, Harrison, Kingsbury, Betterly, Sutliff, Santee, Harvey, Bonham, Bacon, Hice, Boston, Lockhart and Davidson.

For details the reader is referred to Mrs. M. L. Hartman's historical article in the *Shickshinny Echo* of July 23, 1886, from which these facts are taken.

#### The Vegetable Origin of Coal.

Prof. Leo. Lesquereux, Fossil Botanist of the Geological Survey of Pennsylvania, and well-known in Wilkes-Barre, by reason of his visit to the collection of the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society, is writing a series of articles going to favor the origin of anthracite coal. He takes up several objections to this theory and then answers them. We quote:

**First Objection.**—The vegetable remains found in and upon the shale of coal beds do not prove that the coal itself is a compound

of plants. The preserved remains may have been deposited and indeed have been deposited in the shale after the formation of the coal. Therefore leaves, branches, fragments of plants of diverse nature, like pieces of bark, etc., found now in connection with coal beds, may have been carried by atmospheric disturbances, storms, etc., and strewn upon layers of bituminous matter, like the lakes of bitumen observed in the vicinity of some volcanoes. The plants, therefore, may be totally foreign to the composition of the coal.

**Answer 1.**—In examining seams of coal covered by shale-bearing plants, one sees that the roof shales become gradually more bituminous in approaching the line of connection with the coal; and that even where they have become quite black, or half shale and half coal, the remains of the plants are still recognized, losing their forms only when the matter is entirely decomposed or reduced to hard coal. But even then, in some coal beds, the thin layers of nearly pellucid very hard bituminous matter are separated by their lamellæ of charcoal, evidently woody matter. Leaflets of ferns, and pieces of bark with their peculiar leaf-scars, are often printed with a perfect preservation of their forms and of their nervation, easily distinguishable with the eye.

**Answer 2.**—In some coal beds of cannel, or very bituminous coal, fragments of plants of diyers size, trunks of trees, branches of fern, especially small seeds, spores (the seeds of *Lycopodiaceæ*) are found, sometimes in great abundance. Species of coal in England have been found composed of spores in such profusion that some authors have hazarded the opinion that coal has been entirely formed of spores. In the cannel coal, the most compact coal of which the matter has been so thoroughly decomposed that the fracture of the substance is as smooth as that of black marble, for example in the Breckinridge coal of Kentucky, one finds large steins, *stigmæria*, *lepidodendron*, etc., whose forms are perfectly preserved as sulphide of iron or pyrites. At Cannelton, the bed of coal also cannel, rests upon a layer of less thoroughly decomposed matter, but still coal, wherefrom the remains of 250 species of plants have been obtained and described.

**Objection continued.**—But the objector may say, bitumen either deposited by and from the atmosphere or by the eruption of volcanoes, may have been distributed upon forests or upon land covered with a varied vegetation; and of course the remains of plants might thus be found at the base of the bituminous deposits, or pieces of wood, branches, trunks, large fragments of bark, may have been thrown from the borders during the process of accumulation of the







matter without having contributed in any essential manner to the composition of the combustible.

Answer 3.—Now we have for answering the preceding objection a kind of evidence concerning the true nature of coal to which it seems that no contradiction can be reasonably offered. By the work of the lapidary it is possible to obtain lamellæ of coal thin enough to be rendered nearly translucent. On subjecting these lamellæ to the microscope, one may easily see the matter of the coal to be composed of mere fragments of vegetables, though they may be deformed by compression and decomposition. Researches of this kind have been for some time actively pursued, and have proved that a piece of coal taken from any part of a coal seam, either in vertical or horizontal direction, is entirely made up of very small fragments of plants mixed of course with an amount of bitumen such as necessarily results from the decomposition of plants. Researches on this subject have been pursued in Germany, by Gumbel; in France, by Renault; in England, by Williamson, Caruther, Wethered; in Switzerland, by Fruh; in North America, by Dawson. All have arrived at the same conclusion, that the coal is entirely composed of vegetable remains.

It cannot be said against these revelations of structure made by the microscope that the so-called carbonized vegetable tissues may not be plants; for the celebrated anatomist Renault, of the museum of Paris, remarks as others have noticed before him, that in a great number of cases, the remains of the plants which composes the coal, although deformed by maceration, still show recognizable organic structures, and may be identified as plants of the same species as those which are found in fragments silicified or in the roof shale, where they have been protected against deformation by being embedded in clay, iron, sand, etc.

The thin layers of hydrocarbon are produced of course by the decomposition of the vegetable tissue and by compression. They are rarely pure but generally mixed with spores or pieces of cellular tissue, isolated cells, etc.

To the evidence thus obtained directly by the eyesight of observers may be added the no less direct evidence of chemical analysis. The proportion of ashes remaining after combustion of coal is on an average the same as that of various species of wood. If there is a little surplus in the proportion it is easily accounted for, as caused by the introduction into the original mass of that dust of mineral matter reduced to powder always carried by the wind.

And, in regard to the constituents of the coal, chemistry acknowledges that they must

positively be a result of the slow, gradual and long-continued decomposition of vegetable matter, protected from the free access of the air and its burning element oxygen. The process of this peculiar decomposition has been followed from its beginning in peat, to its first more advanced stages in the lignite of the glacial era; in which latter form the branches and trunks of trees have already become softened to the consistence of soap without losing their color; then, to the next stage of miocene lignite, in which the wood, still soft, is already quite black; then, to lower tertiary or upper cretaceous coal, where the vegetable matter is hard and compact like coal, but easily disaggregated by atmospheric action; then, to coal of the carboniferous period; and finally to the conditions of anthracite. The whole series forms an unbroken chain of successive modifications, which not only can be, but has been carefully studied and recorded as one of the most interesting pages of the secret work of nature.

#### The Formation of Coal.

The RECORD has already given some of the arguments of Prof. Leo Lesquereux, fossil botanist of Pennsylvania, to sustain the theory that anthracite coal is of vegetable origin. A French paper—the *Bulletin de la Ceramique*—now publishes a singular and entirely different theory in which M. de Grand' Eury argues that forest vegetation had nothing to do with coal formation. Buffon having indicated the fact that coal deposits are situated in places which at one time were covered with water. M. de Grand' Eury argues that the water of such seas or lakes was heated by the earth's caloric properties and by the sun. The atmosphere being charged with carbonic acid, there was in these waters an enormous production of inferior vegetation which absorbed the carbonic acid of the air, and became decomposed either by the want of water or of oxygen. A sort of vegetable jelly will thus have been formed which, gradually losing its humidity, transformed its carbon into ulmic hydra-carburetted substances; to become successively transformed into asphalt, petroleum, naphtha, earth pitch, bitumen, and finally coal.

This principle is opposed to the idea that large trees and shrubs produced coal, and in further support of this theory it is stated that the carboniferous flora consisted of plants deficient in substance necessary for producing coal, the investigations of M. Gaston de Saporta on this point indicating that this vegetation consisted of a relatively thin circle of wood and a large quantity of a softer substance. Brogniart and Elie de Beaumont attribute the foundation of coal to the transformation of the close herbaceous





vegetation which surrounded the larger forest trees and plants. Similar opinions have been expressed by M. Ponchet and other *savans*, so that M. Grand' Eury has more or less eminent authorities for his statement, that a calculation of accumulation of trees, etc., necessary for the conversion into even a thin coal bed, a forest suddenly buried under water or gradually letting its residue gather on the ground, leads to an evidently erroneous result; so greatly is it necessary to exaggerate either the mass of vegetable matter or the duration of the process of coal formation.

M. Grand' Eury believes that coal was at one time liquid, and gradually assumed a solid shape. He considers that coal beds were formerly beds of naphtha and bituminous petroleum, produced by the decomposition of inferior aquatic vegetation, under the influence of heat and dampness. As a proof of this assertion, he quotes the fact that the porous minerals found at the bottom of coal pits are impregnated in their pores with naphtha and petroleum. This is immediately detected by their odor and it is therefore argued that this naphtha could only have been absorbed during the first state of coal formation. It is further remarked that this theory serves to explain the formation of petroleum, asphalt and other bituminous springs, which are found at various depths and even at the bottom of some lakes.

In further defense of the hypothesis that coal was once in a liquid state, it is urged that candle coal lights in the same way as resin, and can be used like a torch or flambeau. Another proof is the fact that the lighter substances (turfs, lignites, etc.), are on the top. Various proofs are furnished by the absence of similarity between the ashes of wood and coal, that the two substances are not so closely connected as has been thought to be the case.

The presence of fossil imprints or plants is explained by the fact that these imprints are in the earthy and schistous portions of the mines, and not in the coal itself. The trunks of trees which are sometimes found are not coal, properly so called, and retain certain properties of wood. The waters in which there grew the vegetable substances contained (like such waters of the present time) carbonate of lime, carbonate of iron, and alum. Hence the presence of these salts in certain kinds of coal is explained.

These interesting facts, quoted by M. Paul Noel are possibly not altogether new, but in any case deserve attention from the methodical and careful manner in which they are presented by him. Ideas of a more or less novel kind have from time to time been put forward by French writers with regard to this subject. M. Gennete asserted that coal is produced from a certain sandy earth which

he names *agas*, while M. de Gonsanne regards it as clay mixed with sufficient bitumen and sulphur to render it combustible. In further illustration of his theory, he quotes the fact that none of the ligneous products with which we are acquainted can, strictly speaking, be called coal; referring specially to lignites, etc.

#### A Former Wilkes-Barrean's Death.

Col. William P. Wilson, formerly of this city, died at Warm Springs, Va., a short time ago, his demise being caused by heart disease superinduced by rheumatism, contracted while serving in the Rebellion. Col. Wilson was engaged in the drug business in this city in 1870-1, in partnership with P. M. Barber, they having a fine establishment in Music Hall block, and another on Public Square in the store room lately vacated by C. B. Metzger. Col. Wilson's wife is a sister of Allan H. Dickson Esq. He was an aid in Gen. Hancock's staff during the war, and for five years subsequently. Col. Wilson was a brave soldier, an honorable business man and an upright citizen.

The following is taken from Kulp's Families of Wyoming:

Rev. H. S. Dickson had four children, the youngest, Allan Hamilton Dickson, Esq., of Wilkes-Barre, another, Ellen, who married Col. W. P. Wilson, of Potter's Mills, Centre County, Pa. Col. Wilson was a grandson of Hugh Wilson, who was one of the founders of the Irish settlement at Bath, Northampton County, Pa., and a son of Dr. William Irvine Wilson, whose wonderful energy, courage and devotion in the practice of medicine throughout Penn's Valley during its early history, and whose cheerful and profuse hospitality at his home, at Potter's Mills, made him famous and beloved by all of his many friends and acquaintances. He died at Bellefonte, on September 22, 1883, in his ninetyeth year. Col. Wilson served throughout the war on the staff of Gen. W. S. Hancock, and remained in the regular army until 1870, when he resigned his commission and engaged in business.

#### Judge Dana's Indian Pipe.

A Tunkhannock correspondent of the *Scranton Free Press* writes thus: "Up the side of Avery mountain is a cave, from the mouth of which you get a lovely view of the valley: they say this cave was a hiding place and shelter for the Indians in days gone by. Just across the river on the flats was an Indian burying ground. A German farmer, who works Dr. Dana's farm, told me yesterday that two years ago, when plowing for corn, he turned up seven Indian skulls, a lot of beads, wampum, arrow tips and a curious pipe. Judge Dana, of Wilkes-Barre, who is a collector of relics, gave \$20 for the pipe."





## THE BERWICK CENTENNIAL.

Some Data Relating to the Town's Settlement — Confusion as to the Precise Date — Names of the Founder and Early Residents — Notable Events, Enterprises, Buildings, Etc.

Authorities differ as to the exact time to celebrate the centennial of the borough of Berwick, Columbia Co. The people there say 1886 is the proper year. Hon. Stenben Jenkins says it should be next year. While Dr. Egle, in his history of Pennsylvania, says Berwick was first settled in 1783, and this date coincides with that given in Day's Historical Collections of Pennsylvania, published in 1843. In the *Berwick Independent* of July 14, 1876, still another date is given, it being stated that Berwick was founded in 1780 by Evan Owen, whose name would indicate Welsh origin, who came from Philadelphia in a Durham boat. He built a habitation and laid out a town, which he called Owensville. He subsequently named the town Berwick, after his birthplace in Scotland, along the river Tweed. His house was of logs upon a site now occupied by the St. Charles Hotel. The settlers who immediately followed were Robert and John Brown, Englishmen; Samuel Jackson, a brother-in-law of Owen; James Evans, a millwright; Henry Traugh, a tanner; John Smith, a shoemaker, and John Jones.

John Brown opened the first hotel, and it was the favorite stopping place for travelers between Wilkes-Barre and Northumberland. This hotel stood where the Y. M. C. A. building now stands.

The next hotel was built by John Jones, at corner of Market and Front Streets, and was kept by him.

Abraham Klotz kept the Jones Hotel stand a long while; then Frederick Nicely, during whose time it was known as the Cross Keys. The St. Charles Hotel was the first brick structure in the town. It was first known as the Seybert stand, then as the Rising Sun. Its present name was but recently applied. After Seybert it was kept successively by Connelly, Leidy, Ruch, Miller, Hoyt, Correll, McNair, Stedman, Enke and Seely.

Dr. Headley kept a hotel in what is known as the old Headley house, the present residence of H. R. Bower.

A market house was erected in 1805, it serving for schools, religious services, public meetings and elections.

Game was plenty in those days and wolves were a common nuisance.

John Jones opened the first store about 1800. Other early storekeepers were J. & A. Miller, J. & E. Leidy, Thomas Richardson, Matthew McDowell, Wright & Slocum, Robert Mc-

Curdy, Stowers & Ellis, Clark, Drilly & Seoville, Wm. C. Reynolds, Gilmore & Shuman, Rittenhouse and Shuman, Headley & Bahl, Headley, McNair & Co., Fowler & Driesbach, J. & J. Bowman, who were succeeded by C. B. Bowman, George Lane, father of the late Charles A. Lane, of this city, who was also a Methodist preacher and for a long time identified with the Book Concern, New York.

The first farmer was Sebastian Seybert, who had also a store and blacksmith shop. His farm was at the Swamp, in Salem Township, two miles above Berwick.

Among the early comers were Mr. Davenport, the Malloys, Samuel Herrin, William Cox, Paul Thompson, (who was a potter,) the Vernetts (Mrs. Dr. Ingham being a descendant of this family) and Marshalls. Joseph Stackhouse brought fruit trees from Bucks County which he planted in the square comprised between Second, Third, Mulberry and Vine Streets. The first lawyer was Bancroft; first judge, John Cooper; first doctors, Moreland and Reisswick; first postmaster, William Brien; first schoolmaster; Isaac Holloway; first Sunday schoolman, D. Bowen; first preachers, Carson and Painter, first coopers, John and Peter Solt; first carpenter, John Brown; first blacksmith, Aquila Star; first tailor, Benjamin Dean; first mason, Johnathan Cooper; first dyer, Bush; first tanner, Henry Traugh; first dentist, Vallerschamp; first tinner, Hiram Inman; first gunsmiths, Sleppy & Co.; first wheelwright, James Evans; first silversmith, Marshall; first milliner, Roxana Courtright; first painter, Abel Dalby; first butcher, Stackhouse; then Jonathan Cooper; first weaver, Polly Mullen; first cabinet maker, Samuel Herrin; first saddle and harness-maker, Col. John Snyder; first lime burner, John Jones.

Wm. Brien kept the first ferry. The first bridge was built in 1814 by Theodore Burr, it being carried away by a freshet 21 years later. Its officers were A. Miller, Sr., president; John Brown, treasurer; managers, Silas Engle, Thomas Bowman, Elisha Barton, Jr. After a few years a new bridge was built, the State contributing \$10,000, and this structure still stands. The contribution on the part of the State was obtained through the efforts of Jesse Bowman, who was delegated to visit Harrisburg and urge the matter before the Legislature. The bridge was built by Eliphalet Edson and Charles Barrett. Its cost was about \$45,000. John Bowman was president in 1837, when it was finished, and until 1843. He was succeeded by his brother, Jesse Bowman, who continued in office during his life. Others who helped the enterprise through were S. F. Headley, J. T. Beach, Dr. A. B. Wilson, Robert Smith and Judge Mack.





In 1805 several Philadelphia capitalists constructed the Nescopeck turnpike. The Tioga and Susquehanna turnpike was opened in 1818, and the first stage line was run to Mauch Chunk by Andrew Shiner. The first stage line between Wilkes-Barre and Northumberland was run by the Horton Brothers, and it antedated the above a number of years.

Evan Owen was squire and settled all disputes. Every bear killed was brought to him and he divided it equally among the citizens. He was succeeded as squire by Samuel Herrin.

Columbia County was taken from Northumberland in 1814; Berwick was incorporated a borough in 1818.

The nearest mill was at Catawissa, 15 miles distant. Later the Rittenhouse mill, a mile or two below town, and the Evans mill, at Evansville, were built. Evan Owen built a mill along the river, intending to supply it with water therefrom, but the scheme proved a failure and was abandoned.

The first church was built by the Quakers, a log building that stood where the brick church now stands, they being the first denomination to have a church; the second was the Methodists, their original church being the second brick structure built in the town; it was abandoned to dwelling purposes, and a new church was constructed in 1845; this was displaced in 1870 by a more modern edifice; the third church was built by the Baptists in 1842, and the fourth by the Presbyterians in 1843, these congregations having worshipped for many years in the Methodist building.

Water was first supplied from Foundryville, and conducted through log pipes a distance of two miles. The present water works were built in 1848, the water being raised a height of about 100 feet to a reservoir by means of a steam pump from a large spring in the Susquehanna. Rev. J. H. Young, Dr. A. B. Wilson, Jesse Bowman and S. F. Headley were the prominent movers in this enterprise.

The mails were carried by post (on horseback) and in 1800 Jonathan Hancock rode post from Wilkes-Barre to Berwick. The mail was carried once a week via Nanticoke, Newport and Nescopeck to Berwick, returning via Huntington and Plymouth.

The old academy was built in 1839 by Thomas Connelly, supplanting the market house in location and in its varied uses. A few years ago it was demolished and its space in Market Street given up to street use, which was demanded, while a handsome new school building has taken its place further out Market Street. This change took place in 1873.

Shad were seized by the wagon load and a load could be obtained for a barrel of salt,

so scarce was this commodity. The best shad sold for four cents. One was caught weighing nine pounds. Butter brought six cents a pound and calico from thirty to fifty cents a yard.

The residents did their washing at the river and left their kettles along the shore the year round.

The first children born were John and Annie Brown, children of Robert. Annie became the wife of Jesse Bowman. She was the first person married in Berwick.

The Lackawanna & Bloomsburg RR. was opened to Berwick in 1858.

The First National Bank was organized in 1864, with M. W. Jackson as president and M. E. Jackson cashier.

The first fire engine was obtained in 1825. A fire in the Jackson & Woodin works in 1857 destroyed it.

Berwick had its cannon, but little if any thing has been seen or heard of it since the firing of a salute on the return of the Mexican soldiers, when through a premature discharge Sam. Iddings lost an arm.

Drs. A. B. Wilson and Josiah Jackson began the practice of medicine in 1828. The latter had a store connected with his office. Drs. Beebe and Townsend were early practitioners, as also Dr. Langdon, who was rendered incapable to practice by dementia.

The first military company was organized by Charles Snyder. Training days were a great occasion, the battalion drills of infantry, cavalry, etc., making an imposing military display, to witness which the people in all the country roundabout visited the town.

Ground was broken for the North Branch Canal at Berwick, July 4th, 1828. Mr. Pews had the contract for the Berwick section and Nicholas Seybert for the section above. There were fourteen drinking places in the town during the building of the canal, and pure whisky sold at 3 cents a dram. Packet boats named the George Denison and Gertrude were launched by Miller Horton and A. O. Chahoon in 1835.

The accident resulting from the several attempts to navigate the Susquehanna is still remembered by some of our older residents. The Codorus, a boat built at York, drawing only 8 inches of water, made a successful trip to Wilkes-Barre and as far north as Binghamton in the spring of 1826. A second steamboat, the Susquehanna, built at Baltimore, and drawing 14 inches, made the next attempt. It reached the Berwick falls May 3d, 1826. Rich pine wood was piled under the boiler, a full head of steam raised and the effort made to ascend the rapids. But the strain was too great and the boiler burst with sad results. Five persons were killed, two or three of whom are buried in the Berwick Graveyard, and most of the twenty who remained on the boat





were more or less injured.

Berwick's newspaper record dates close upon 1800. Wm. Caruthers made the initial attempt with the *Berwick Independent American* in 1812, he having started the paper some time previously in Nescopeck; Daniel Bowen issued a paper in 1827, George Mack in 1832, J. T. Davis in 1834, then Wilbur & Joslyn, then Tate & Gangewer, then B. F. Gilmore, then D. C. Kitchen, then Pearce & Snyder, then J. M. Snyder, then Tate & Irwin, then W. H. Hibbs, then A. B. Tate, then J. S. Sanders.

M. W. Jackson and Judge Mack built a foundry in 1840, which was run by horse power. The firm changed to McCurdy & Jackson, then to M. W. Jackson and in 1849 to Jackson & Woodin. In 1872 it became the Jackson & Woodin Manufacturing Co., and this year also the rolling mill addition was made to the plant. The company has done a successful business, making fortunes for the several members, and it continues to be an institution of considerable magnitude.

The Odd Fellows Society is one of the old societies. It owns a handsome building which was erected in 1867, and is a prosperous organization with large membership.

James Pratt, a soldier of the revolution, was one of the early residents.

The oldest tombstone in the grave-yard bears the date 1804. There are buried in the cemetery 2 soldiers of the revolution, 3 of the war of 1812, 2 of the war of Mexico, 11 of the Rebellion.

The first cornet band was organized in 1841 by G. S. Tutton and led by J. M. Snyder.

The telegraph was extended into the town in 1850.

The above contains the main data comprising Berwick's earlier history. No effort has been made to bring the record down to the present, which is manifestly needless when simply the earlier events are intended to be dealt with. No pretension to absolute correctness is assumed, as after the lapse of so many years it is extremely difficult to fix dates, names and events at all, to say nothing of the almost impossible task of arrangement in chronological order or historic sequence with such material as is at hand and the brief time that could be allotted to the subject. In view of the centennial celebration which takes place on the 19th instant there will doubtless be at least some degree of interest attached to its perusal.

In 1805 the first animal show, an elephant exhibited in Wilkes-Barre. Everybody went to see the "Jumbo" of the time.

In 1823 the first organ in the county was placed in St. Stephen's church, Wilkes-Barre, and the first tune played was Yankee Doodle.

## BERWICK'S CENTENNIAL.

**A Great Outpouring of People—The G. A. R. Veterans Make a Very Creditable Display—Indifference on the Part of the Local Management—Plenty of Pick-pockets.**

[Special to Record.]

BERWICK, Aug. 19.—When Evan Owens came up from Philadelphia and founded the town of Berwick a hundred years ago he probably had no conception of the great in-pouring of people there would be on the 19th day of August in this year of our Lord 1886. To-day is a gala occasion for this ancient and well-preserved borough, and residences vied with business places in the elaborateness of their decorations. Flags and streamers everywhere, masses of bunting, and at several of the street intersections arches bearing words of welcome. Some of the buildings displayed old portraits and other relics of a by-gone day. Beneath one arch was a painting of Berwick in 1786, but as it represented not log cabins, but a three-story mill, stone arch bridge, a four-horse coach, and other later accessories of Berwick life it is to be feared the artist was not versed in the antiquity of his town.

The crowds began pouring in at an early hour, special excursion trains being run on L. & B. and the Pennsylvania, by the G. A. R. posts of Wilkes-Barre, Scranton and other points. The Wilkes-Barre and Pittston train consisted of 16 crowded coaches. The Scranton excursion, over the L. & S. and the Pennsylvania was belated by a cave-in near Moosic and did not reach Berwick until the parade was over. They were headed by Bauer's band and had a very creditable parade of their own, comprising Ezra Griffin Post, Col. Monies Post and another band.

Really the only people who deserve much credit are the members of the Five Counties Veteran Association. They turned out in full force but the local Centennial observance was almost a flat failure. There seems to have been an utter lack of organization. The crowd was here, five thousand visitors, but there was nothing outside of the veterans' display to entertain them—not even a speech.

The parade was quite a creditable one and was made up of veterans, Sons of Veterans, Sons of America, fire companies and a band of hostiles—from Shickshinny. The day was a perfect one, though hot for the marchers, particularly the older men, and the streets, well, they were shoe deep with dust. The chief marshal's duties were skillfully performed by Col. A. D. Seely. The line was headed by a trim company of well dressed and well drilled boys, the Berwick Guards,





commanded by the veteran, Capt. Hoft. In the first carriage Francis Evans, a descendant of the original settler, and his guests, Gen. Edwin S. Osborne, Col. A. Wilson Norris and Dr. C. H. Wilson. In the other carriages were Col. Laycock, Major John B. Smith, Capt. Harry Gordon, Dr. W. R. Longshore, Capt. Wren, Major McKune, Hon. Lewis Pugh and others. Ely Post and Keith Post, of Wilkes-Barre, were in strong force accompanied by the excellent juvenile drum corps. There was also Capt. Asher Gaylord Post, of Plymouth, Lape Post, of Nanticoke and representatives from other posts. There was also a numerous company of survivors of Southern prisons. The expected 9th, 12d and 13th Regiments, N. G. P., did not come. Shamokin, Harveyville and Berwick were represented by camps of Sons of Veterans, Nanticoke and Seybertsville by Sons of America, and Berwick by Odd Fellows. Danville, Bloomsburg and Berwick had some well equipped fire companies, and Shickshinny sent a tribe of "Mocanqua Indians," who took a prisoner, tortured him and held up his reeking scalp before the horrified multitude. Women who fainted could be restored only upon learning that the Indians were only make-believes, that the "prisoner" was a bald-headed man, that the scalp was only a wig, and that the hemorrhage came from a bladder of blood under the wig. The Mocanquas are not really so bloodthirsty as they seemed.

The parade terminated at the fair grounds, where the visiting organizations were regaled with barrels of coffee, huge boxes of sandwiches and gallons of pickles, dispensed from the several buildings. The grounds were alive with devices for fleecing the unwary, and hundreds of dollars found their way into the pockets of the traveling sharps. By this time, 1 and 2 o'clock, it was boiling hot, and the crowds eagerly sought the cover of the grand stands and whatever other shade could be found. The populace were disappointed at not hearing some addresses. Neither Gen. Osborne nor Col. Norris were brought out, as both were Republicans, and there were no Democrats to offset them. Both Hon. Charles R. Buckalew and Col. R. B. Ricketts had been invited, but were not present, so Osborne and Norris were not called from their carriage. The Veterans' Association held its annual meeting in the judges' stand and elected officers. For president, Capt. Harry M. Gordon, of Plymouth, was succeeded by James R. Ehret, of Pittston; Dr. C. H. Wilson, of Plymouth, as secretary, by Col. C. K. Campbell, of Pittston and John Y. Wren, of Plymouth, as treasurer, by Thomas English, of Pittston. The new vice presidents elected were Major Post, of Shickshinny,

and C. B. Metzger, of Wilkes-Barre. Brief addresses were made by Mayor McKune, Capt. De Lacy, Capt. Gordon and Chaplain Stall. The veterans were mostly from the First Army Corps, in which Col. Norris has figured so prominently of late, and most of them were from the 149th (Gen. Osborne's regiment) and the 143d. A very pleasant informal reception was given Gen. Osborne at his carriage, which was near the judges' stand, by his comrades in arms. Several other corps were also represented. The next annual meeting will be held in Pittston.

The addresses were much interfered with by a game of ball a few yards away, contested by the Berwick and Hazleton clubs.

### "PROVISO" WILMOT.

**A Stranger Stumbles Over His Mother's Forgotten Grave—Sketch of the Anti-Slavery Democrat Who Studied Law in Wilkes-Barre.**

A gravestone has been set up over a long-forgotten grave in the old Bethany burying ground, in Wayne County. The existence of the grave was discovered some time ago by a man who was walking through the brier-choked burial place. He struck his foot against something in the weeds, and on investigating found a weather-stained headstone lying flat on the ground. He raised it up and, scraping off the moss that had grown upon it, he deciphered the following inscription.

.....  
 : In Memory of :  
 : MARY, :  
 : Wife of Randall Wilmot, :  
 : Died Nov. 19, 1820, :  
 : Aged 28 Years. :  
 : .....

Randall Wilmot was the father and Mary Wilmot the mother of David Wilmot, of "Wilmot Proviso" fame. Randall Wilmot kept a tavern at Bethany in 1814, and David Wilmot was born in the house on Jan. 20 of that year. The tavern is still standing. Randall Wilmot moved to the West in 1832, after marrying a second wife. He and his second wife are buried in Cortland, Ohio. David Wilmot is buried at Towanda, Bradford county. Citizens of Bethany have replaced the old tombstone at the head of his mother's long-unknown grave, and will build an enclosure around it.—*Honesdale Independent*.

"Dave" Wilmot achieved a national reputation by reason of his battle for human rights, and the document which grew of it, the famous "Wilmot Proviso." Wilmot studied law in Wilkes-Barre, and at the age





of 30 received the unanimous nomination of the Democracy in the Congressional district embracing Bradford, Tioga and Susquehanna Counties. He was elected and took his seat at the opening of the 23rd Congress in December, 1845. The annexation of Texas, which Mr. Wilmot, in unison with the Democratic party of the North, had supported, was consummated in 1845 and was speedily followed by war with Mexico. The Wilmot Proviso provided that in any territory acquired from Mexico, neither slavery nor involuntary servitude should ever exist except for crime. The following year he was unanimously nominated and elected and was again nominated in 1850. At this juncture the pro-slavery Democrats set about to defeat him. Mr. Wilmot at once offered to give way to any person who would represent the principle for which he was contending. Hon. Galusha A. Grow was named by Mr. Wilmot as an acceptable candidate and he was thereupon elected, Mr. Wilmot being elected president judge, a position held by him from 1851 to 1857. He resigned in the latter year, and his anti-slavery principles having rendered the Democracy distasteful to him, he embraced the principles of the opposition and became the Republican candidate for Governor of Pennsylvania though he was defeated by Wm. F. Packer, it was claimed, through the treachery of the Know-Nothings. He was restored to the bench by appointment and again by election. In 1861 he was elected to the United States Senate to fill a vacancy created by the selection of Gen. Simon Cameron, as Secretary of War under President Lincoln. He served two years in the Senate and was succeeded by Hon. Charles R. Buckalew. President Lincoln appointed him a Judge of the Court of Claims which office he held up to the time of his death, at Towanda, March 16, 1868.

An exhaustive sketch of this distinguished Pennsylvanian appears in Mr. C. F. Heverly's *History of Towanda*, recently published by the *Reporter-Journal*, giving the early history of the settlement and sketches of the eminent men who have resided there.

In the *Shickshinny Echo* for Aug. 13 is concluded the series of historical articles on Huntington Township, Luzerne Co., by Mrs. M. L. T. Hartman. It is the purpose of the author to enlarge and re arrange the matter for publication in book form. Mrs. Hartman has rendered her section of the county a favor that might well find imitators in every other township. Her work has been painstaking and thorough and the volume as a monument to her will be more enduring than marble.

In 1798 Wilkes-Barre was the post office for the whole county.

#### SOMETHING ABOUT BRICKS.

**How Much Easier They are Made Now Than in a Generation or Two Ago—A Wilkes-Barre Yard Turns Them Out in Larger Quantities.**

Sixty years is not a very long time, counting in the life of a nation, and yet when we consider the advancement made in all branches of art and science, as well as the commoner affairs of life within this period of time, we can but wonder how our fathers managed to exist in times of primitive simplicity. The industry, for we cannot call it art, of brickmaking, we know from history was practiced almost from the dawn of man's first advancement from mere animal existence. The Egyptians at the time of the Israelitish captivity made bricks by mixing straw with the clay, but we presume they were of the adobe type as made in Mexico at the present time merely sun dried masses of a foot wide and two feet in length, which serve the purpose very well in a dry climate like Egypt or Mexico. Fine burned bricks are found in the ruins of ancient Babyton, yet few of the houses are constructed of so costly a material.

The art of brick-making in this country has advanced very materially within the memory of some of our older inhabitants. It is still remembered by a few among us, the time when it was a pretty serious undertaking to make and burn a kiln of bricks. The clay had to be dug out and heaped up all winter subject to the freezing process, in order to properly disintegrate the clay; it was then placed in a circular pit to the depth of a couple of feet, and in the spring two or three pairs of oxen were turned in and driven round and round like horses in a circus ring, until the clay was reduced to the proper consistence and fineness for moulding in a double or single mould.

This, of course, was a slow process, and to make even 50,000 bricks was something of an undertaking. Upon visiting the brick-yards of Messrs. Dickover & Son on North Washington street, a few days ago, we could not help comparing their way of making bricks with the old one, very much to the advantage of the new. Now the clay may be reposing in its bed where it has lain for countless ages, in sheets like the leaves of a book. Two stout Huns spade it out and shovel it into a cart, after which it is dumped at the mixing machine run by a powerful steam engine. Two men here shovel it into a hopper, from which it falls between two iron rolls running close together when it is crushed partially, and if there happens to be any stones in it, as is often the case, they are tossed out by an iron wheel standing at a right angle with the rollers and having projecting





teeth in its external periphery. As the crushed clay passes the rollers it falls on an inclined conveyor, having just enough water falling from an iron pipe to moisten it to the proper consistency. The conveyor carries it to the head of the grinder, where, after a severe churning, it reaches a receptacle at the bottom. A man stands in front with a lot of eight-compartment moulds, one of which he passes under the clay, grasps a lever and gives a pull downward. The clay is forced down on the open mould by a plunger attached to the engine. The mould slides out with eight well-formed bricks and is immediately seized by a workman and placed upon a truck, which, when loaded, is trundled off and dumped upon a sanded floor to dry. It requires the work of two laborers to carry away the work of one moulder. By this process 20,000 bricks are moulded each day when the weather will serve for drying and the time required in its passage between the clay pit and the drying floor is not above five minutes. In the burning of the bricks, too, there is now a decided advantage over the old process of wood burning. On our visit there we saw a 240,000 kiln fairly aglow with the heat from a number of small furnaces of anthracite coal beneath the arches. The burning was pretty nearly completed, and upon climbing to the top of the kiln and looking down into the cracks, we saw the whole mass as red as a cherry and pretty nearly ready for having the fire extinguished. It requires thirty tons of No. 3 coal to burn such a kiln, and when we consider the price of coal at the schutes less than \$2, the cost per thousand for fuel is not great. The senior member of the firm is an old time bricklayer, who fifty years ago handled the trowel here in Wilkes-Barre, and he takes pride in showing his old friends over the yard whenever they may choose to give him a call.

W. J.

#### Historical Notes.

The Bucks County *Intelligencer* for Aug. 14 contains an account of the Holcombe reunion and historical meeting at Mount Airy, Hunterdon County, N. J. Representatives were present from several New England and Eastern States, at least 700 connections of the Holcombe family. Judson Holcombe, of Bradford County, editor of the *Bradford Republican*, Towanda, was one of the speakers. He said he belonged to the Yankee Holcombe stock which settled in Ulster, Bradford County, on the New York line, in 1785. The ancestors of his line came with their children to Pennsylvania, six sons and two daughters, all of whom settled in Bradford, with the exception of one boy, who settled in Herkimer County, New York. There were now residing in Bradford County,

besides those who had emigrated to different sections of the country, some 300 Holcombes and their connections. In Bradford they are scattered over 15 townships. The speaker's father, Hugh Holcombe, was a son of Eli, who came to Ulster in about 1785, at the age of 18. He left his father to cut his way through a dense wilderness. He and his brother took up about 300 acres of land under what was known as the Connecticut title, for \$1.50 an acre. Finally there came Pennsylvania claimants and they had to pay for the land a second time, so that ultimately their land cost them \$3 per acre originally. He then presented to the audience Alfred Holcombe, the oldest Holcombe of Bradford County, now 84 years of age. He lived on the old property, the ground where the pioneer settlers of Bradford of the Holcombe name in Bradford located.

The Doylestown *Intelligencer* of Aug. 14, contains a paper on the Aboriginal Remains in Durham and Vicinity, read by John A. Ruth at the July meeting of the Bucks County Historical Society. A most interesting account is given of the several finds. Mention is made of an ancient jasper quarry from which material was obtained for the manufacture of stone implements. Among them are found the stone hammers, which are cobble stones with battered edges. The author has 3,000 specimens of Indian implements. About 60 per cent. are made of jasper, 30 per cent. of shale and the remainder of quartz, chalcedony, etc. The articles comprise spear points, arrowheads, axes, plummets, sinkers, amulets, hoes, pipes, wedges. Among the collectors are Dr. J. S. Johnson and Benj. Purcell, Kintnersville; C. E. Hindenach, Durham; S. E. Wolf, Riegelsville. Articles are constantly being found. The *Media American*, Chairman Thomas V. Cooper's paper, publishes a series of most interesting sketches on local history, over the signature of "Steele Penne." The article in the issue of July 28 was an account of a *Media* paper of 1826, then the *Upland Union* and contains many happy references to village life 60 years ago. As usual with papers of that day there was not a single item of local news in the *Union*. The feature of local news was reserved for a later generation.

The Doylestown *Intelligencer* for Aug. 10, contains the paper on American Archeology, read before the Bucks County Historical Society at its July meeting by Rev. Dr. John P. Lundy, of Philadelphia. The subject is one of great interest and is treated in a most scholarly manner, though not applying locally to Pennsylvania.

In 1769 Anthracite coal was successfully used by Obidiah Gore.

In 1752 there was not a white man's cabin in the Wyoming Forest.





## EDWARD EMILIUS LE CLERC.

**A Historical Poem on Wyoming Which  
This Young Mexican Hero Wrote Over  
40 Years Ago and Read at a Dickinson  
College Commencement.**

THE RECORD has been handed an old clipping of a poem delivered at the commencement exercises of Dickinson College, July 19, 1838, by Edward Emilius Le Clerc. There is nothing about the clipping to show date or name of paper but we learn from Pearce's *Annals of Luzerne* that it was published in the *Wilkes-Barre Advocate*, July 28, 1841.

Edward E. Le Clerc was the eldest son of Joseph P. Le Clerc, whose family residence was at the northeast corner of Union and Franklin Street. After graduating from Dickinson College he studied law with his brother-in-law, Jonathan J. Slocum. Soon after his admission to the bar, war was declared against Mexico, and in a short time thereafter two regiments of volunteers were called for as Pennsylvania's quota for the conquest of our Sister Republic. The Wilkes-Barre company under Capt. Dana at once offered its service and was accepted. Le Clerc was anxious to join the army under Gen. Scott, and being offered the position of lieutenant in a company being enlisted in Columbia County, entered the service and participated in nearly every engagement from the taking of Vera Cruz to the final assault on Chapultepec at the National Capital. He returned with the soldiers when the war was over, but broken in health, and possessing but a delicate constitution, did not long survive the many hardships he had endured while in the service. He possessed the true poetic genius and had he lived to maturer years might have shone more brightly in the galaxy of the true poets of Wyoming Valley.

As none save our older citizens ever saw the poem in print we take pleasure in reproducing it:

'Twas morn—

A summer's morn in Wyoming;  
And o'er her hills the god of day burst forth,  
Clothed with the rosy tinted dawn. And as  
He yoked fast to their flaming car his fire  
Encircled steeds; and as his crown of light  
Poored forth from out a passing fleecy cloud,  
All nature woke, and every instrument  
Of praise she tuned, to warble sweetly forth  
Her gladdest songs of love and joy to Him,  
The bright eye of the universe.

Oh, 'twas  
A glorious sight to look upon, to see  
That lovely vale bathed in the morning light,  
And glittering in its sheen, as Eden did  
When Nature's self was young.

But then at eve—  
A calm and stillly eve, such as is found  
In southern climes, where an eternal summer  
Reigns, and brings to the sad heart a balm,  
Then far beyond the reach of mortal ken  
Is found the grandeur of the gorgeous scene.

For resting on the western mountain's tops,  
As in a sea of gold, the setting sun  
Reclined, in soft and mellow sadness, grieving  
As 'twere to bid adieu, and leave that vale,  
Which he so much did love to smile upon.  
And there reposed the lakes, forth shadowing  
Like silvered mirrors or like burnished gold,  
The hills in whose embrace they lay. Beyond  
Receding to the East the lofty woods  
And rocks sublime, the masonry of God,  
Tinged by the bright beams of declining day,  
Bore sportive semblance to the moonlit tower,  
Or battlement by time and storm decayed.  
So wondrous fair was then the beauty of  
The spot, that language, yea, conception fails  
Its loveliness to paint. It seemed the home  
The mountain home, of some bright fairy elves—  
The sporting place, at the dead noon of night  
For their wild pranks of glee.

But there was too  
A stream for beauty framed, in silver robed,  
Which ever and anon, while washing out  
The mountain's craggy sides that reared their  
heads

Pine crowned, far above, and in their arms  
Circled that beauteous spot, like to a kind  
And careful mother, who will permit not  
Even summer's spicy breeze to blow too rude  
Upon the placid forehead of her sleeping babe.  
Then rushing onward to the mighty sea,  
The mouldering relics of that noble race,  
Unearthed, who once unfettered, proud and free,  
Roamed through that vale, its lord.

But soon the scene was changed,  
For o'er that beauteous spot the demon form  
Of war did rush, and o'er that land devoted  
The sable pinions of his wrath he spread  
Shrouding in night the day star of their hopes,  
And brooding deeds of death.

On ran the hours  
And from a little fort, a hardy band  
Passed out to battle, in numbers, few but firm,  
Determined either to make free the loved  
Homes of their hearts, or perish in their gore.  
On, on, they marched in silence and in doubt,  
For they knew not the red men of the woods,  
Nor e'en their crafty wiles, when leagued with  
those

Fierce demons clad in human form, who recked  
Not what they did, but in the life blood of  
Their friends their guilty hands imbrued, un-  
moyed

By conscience or by love.

But as they slow  
And cautiously, passed up the mountain's gorge,  
Which seemed for scenes of horror formed and  
blood,

The fatal whoop was heard, and in a moment  
Down fell, like rain in April shower, each man's  
Companion. No single form was seen, no sound  
was heard, save bounding, that unearthly yell,  
From distant crag to crag, which echoing back  
It more terrific made, its own discordant  
Melody, and ere it died away, there came,  
Another, longer, louder, bolder, more  
Heart-rending sound, and with it flitted by  
The seared and blighted vision of that band,  
A thousand shadowy forms, and on they came  
The deadly simoon of the desert like—  
That little force withstood the dreadful shock  
Like brave men long and well, till when by  
strength,

And not by valor, overcome, they fled  
Into the plain, and there surrounded by  
Their treacherous foes, a scene of woe ensued  
Such that ne'er mortal man or heart conceived,





So full, so overflowing full was made  
The measure of their misery. It seemed  
As if the Almighty in his fearful wrath  
For some great crime had wreaked his vengeance  
there.

There by the son was slain, him whom he owed  
His being; he who long had dwelt secure,  
Circled in sweet and social intercourse  
By friendship's golden chain, fell by that self  
Same friend, and thus they fought and fell, till  
left

Was scarcely one to tell the dreadful tale  
Of cruelty and death

But one there was escaped,  
Who having fled, upon the river's bank  
Concealed himself: The enemy pursued,  
And one outstripped his fellows far, when like  
Those blood-hounds, which in ancient times  
would track

The steps of man, so sought the monster even  
For human life, and pressing on a briery hedge  
He paused—and he who lay there a foot-fall  
Hearing, on the stranger looked. He looked  
again

More closely. 'Twas his brother!  
Springing from out his hiding place, and pros-  
trate

Falling at his brother's feet, he bade him  
Spare him, to save him from the torturing foe,  
Even from the Indian. Their earlier happier  
hours

Recalled to mind those halcyon days of soul,  
When they from pleasure's gurgling founts did  
sip

Life's sparkling nectar. But 'twas all in vain,  
For he who can his country or his home  
Desert to espouse another foreign cause  
For safety or ambition's sake, must needs  
Lose all the kindlier feelings of his soul.

Thus was it now, for turning round, he said—  
"I know thee not—wretch, die as thou hast lived,  
A rebel to thy king." And lifting up  
His heavy battle ax, it dashed upon  
His unoffending brother's head, who fell,  
Breathed but a prayer, then struggled, groaned,  
and died.

—Oh, if there is one crime above the rest  
That the Recording Angel in his book  
Marks with a blacker, more eternal seal—  
If there's a sin o'er which kind mercy sheds  
More bitter tears, 'tis that of fratricide.  
Oh horrible—it is most horrible  
To see those who have lived and loved together—  
Received their infant thoughts and strength from  
out

The same maternal breast, and those who owned  
The same dear bond of kindred and of love,  
Turn to be enemies, and if the God  
Of Heaven will more enduring, dancing fires  
Call down on any one of his offenders,  
'Twill be on him who slays his brother.

But now  
'Twas night, and shooting up into the gloom  
Were streams of flame, and bright sparks flew  
around,

Like stars from heaven falling. For there was  
now

The savage conqueror, who having glutted  
Full his black heart with human gore, now  
sought

To devastate that lovely vale. And on  
They came, silent and terrible, silent  
As if they were the shadowy forms of those  
Inhabiting death's charnel houses; terrible  
As is the voice of God, when mighty thunders  
Roar in their avenging ire. Still on

They came, and desolation marked their path—  
Nor age, nor sex was spared, nor e'en the haunts  
Of men, but there a universal storm  
Of fire, blasted each verdant field; consumed  
Each resting place, and e'en the temples of  
The living God destroyed; and thus they swept  
Along, till all that vale was rendered such  
A miserable, heart rending scene, that when  
The morning sun rose up, in clouds he veiled  
His face, with all the trappings of deep woe  
He clothed himself; for storms and darkness  
round

Him hung, mourning as parents would for some  
Young lovely child, or friend for friend, at this  
Loved vale's destruction.—

Years have  
Passed on, and yet no monumental stone  
Endless and aged, rearing its lofty front  
To heaven, and blazing forth to all the earth  
The mighty object of its rise, now marks  
The spot where sleep that chosen band, though  
not

Unhonored and unwept, still to the world  
Unknown.—But there a simple grassy mound  
Of earth, wherein the dust-formed relics lay  
Of that true-hearted few, is now the sole  
Remembrancer of Fair Wyoming's Dead.

#### Relics of Frances Slocum.

[Chicago Times.]

A number of very curious Indian relics  
have just been unearthed in Wabash County,  
Ind. They have been in possession of mem-  
bers of the Miami tribe of Indians, to whom  
alone their existence was known. Among  
them is the cross worn by Frances Slocum,  
the famous female captive, who, with  
a very few other whites, escaped alive  
in the Wyoming massacre. The cross  
is eleven and one-half inches long  
and seven inches wide, and is of solid  
silver. It has been in the Miami tribe for  
more than a century. A medal presented to  
the Wyandotte tribe by George Washington  
and afterward presented by the Wyandotte  
chieftain to William Peconda, a Miami, has  
also been discovered. This medal, also of  
silver, is oblong in form, measuring seven  
by five inches. On one side occurs the words:  
"George Washington, President," and a  
medallion representing an Indian holding  
the pipe of peace to a colonist, while a toma-  
hawk is carelessly thrown aside. In the back  
ground is seen a pioneer at the plow. On  
the reverse is seen the coat of arms of the  
United States. An offer of \$500 has been  
refused for this medal. Another medal, cir-  
cular in form and two and one-half inches  
in diameter is also held by a Miami. A  
pipe and a tomahawk, with the words "Peace  
and Friendship. A. Jackson, President,  
1820," are shown on one side, while two  
hands clasped ornament the reverse. The  
relics are regarded with great veneration by  
the Indians and unfatigued curiosity by the  
whites, and nothing can induce the red men  
to part with their treasures.





### Early Newspapers in Wilkes-Barre.

An article in the *Record* made up from the Wilkes-Barre *Gleaner* of 1811 elicited an interesting letter from Judge Chapman, of Montrose, published in the *Independent Republican* and copied into the *Record*. Wm. P. Miner, Esq., of Wilkes-Barre, then addressed the following letter to the *Independent*, which the *Record* takes pleasure in reproducing:

FRIEND TAYLOR: Please say to our friend "C," who comments in the *Independent Republican*, of July 26, on "Notes from an Old Newspaper," that Asher Miner established the *Luzerne County Federalist* on the first Monday in January, 1801. In Number XLIV., of the October following, the word "County" was omitted, and in April 26, 1802, it was announced that "this paper will be hereafter published by A. & C. Miner."

May 1, 1804, the partnership was dissolved and Asher Miner removed to Doylestown, where he published *The Correspondent* for twenty years. The *Bucks County Intelligencer* retains at the head of its columns, "Established by Asher Miner in 1804."

The *Federalist* succeeded the Wilkes-Barre *Gazette*, owned by Thomas Wright, and published by his second son, Josiah, who announced, Dec. 8, 1800, "that several of his subscribers had been deceived by false reports that the *Gazette* was no longer to be continued, but that it was to be given up in favor of the *Federalist*." "It has been suggested that some zealous *Federalist* must have fabricated and propagated the malicious falsehood."

The difficulty between the Wrights and the Miners must have been amicably settled, as Asher Miner married Mary, the only daughter of Thomas Wright, the proprietor, and Charles married Letitia, only daughter of Josiah, publisher of the *Gazette*, and remained sole proprietor of the *Federalist* until Friday, May 12, 1809, when it passed into the charge of Sidney Tracy and Stenben Butler. Mr. Miner wrote:

"The talents, integrity and application of the young gentlemen who succeed me, are a pledge to the public that the paper will be improved under their superintendence."

Mr. Tracy retired Sept. 2, 1810, Mr. Butler retaining sole control for a few weeks.

Dec. 28, 1810, a prospectus was published for a newspaper to be called *The Gleaner and Luzerne Advertiser*, which was published by Miner & Butler. Sidney and Steuben had been apprentices in the *Federalist* office, and their names were household words in the family of Mr. Miner. Between the master and the boys there had been confidence and respect, reciprocal and sincere, which lasted through life.

Jan. 23, 1813, Mr. Butler retired, and Mr. Miner continued the publication until June

14, 1816, when "C's" uncle, Isaac A. Chapman, became proprietor. On retiring, Mr. Miner thus wrote to the patrons of the *Gleaner*:

"The beginning of the week I disposed of the *Gleaner*. On Saturday I leave Wilkes-Barre for Philadelphia to aid Mr. Stiles (with whom I have formed a partnership) in the management of the *True American*. My successor, Mr. Chapman, is too well known to need recommendation. He is intelligent, studious, assiduous to please, well versed in the general politics of the county, and minutely acquainted with the local interests of Luzerne and neighboring counties. With sentiments of affection and respect, I am, and shall ever continue bound to you till my heart is as cold as the clods of the valley."

CHARLES MINER.

June 6, 1817, Patrick Hepburn joined Mr. Chapman, and Sept. 25th became sole proprietor.

Mr. Miner, not satisfied with life in the city, left the *True American*, and declining an offer from Mr. Bronson, of an interest in the *United States Gazette*, purchased the establishment of the *Chester and Delaware Federalist*, at West Chester, twenty miles west from Philadelphia, and founded the *Village Record*, which he conducted successfully alone until 1825. June 29th the following notice appeared:

"The public is respectfully informed that a partnership has been entered into between Asher Miner and Charles Miner, and that the *Village Record* will, from the beginning of July, be published by the firm. Asher Miner is well known to the public, having edited and published the Doylestown *Correspondent* for 29 years."

Charles returned to Wyoming in 1832. Asher followed on disposal of the paper in 1834, when it was sold to Henry S. Evans, Esq., who had graduated, after apprenticeship and employment in the *Record* office, which secured him such entire confidence that he was invited to purchase and left to earn the money and make payments at his convenience. A confidence well placed, since the *Village Record* is still published and prospering under the management of the sons of Mr. Evans. M.

Wilkes-Barre, Aug. 5, 1886.

### Death of L. W. Stewart.

[Daily Record, August 20.]

About 5:30 pm., August 19, Lee W. Stewart died at his residence in Shickshinny, aged about 65 years. He was a son of Lazarus Stewart, a great-grandson of Lazarus Stewart, a native of Scotland who came to this country and settled in Lancaster county in 1729. Capt. Lazarus Stewart, Lee's grand-father, lived on the flats just below Wilkes-Barre in a block house and was killed at the head of his company in the Wyoming massacre. Lee Stewart lived in Wilkes-Barre up to within about 20 years ago when he moved down to Shickshinny. He subse-





quently went on a farm just below Mocanaqua. When in Wilkes-Barre he followed the occupation of a wagonmaker. In late years he has devoted much of his land and time to the raising of strawberries in which he was very successful and made considerable money. He leaves a wife and two children, a son, Walter, about 30 years, and a daughter who is married and lives in Chicago. He was a member of Lodge 61, F. & A. M. The funeral will take place Sunday. The train will leave Mocanaqua 11:01 a.m. and the remains will be taken off at Butzbach's landing, the interment to be made in Hanover cemetery.

#### How Ira Tripp was Made Colonel.

A Providence correspondent of the *Scranton Republican*, (presumably Dr. Hollister,) gives the following pleasant reminiscence in the issue of Aug. 29:

Just forty years ago Ira Tripp was made colonel. At this time Lewis S. Watres, a large lumber dealer and a justice of the peace, lived in the sunny nook on the Lackawanna, known as Mount Vernon then, but now called Winton, a popular and thrifty citizen, a genial fellow full of hospitality and fun, and a Whig in politics. For many years he slashed into the forest on the mountain and sawed the pine logs into lumber which he sold to an Ellandville company of New York for \$8 and \$10 per thousand, now worth \$60. The sawmill and a single house beside his own made up the place.

In the spring of that year Mr. Watres received from Harrisburg a commission as colonel for Ira Tripp. At this time the only colonel living in the upper end of Luzerne was Colonel Darte of Carbondale. The commission was sent to Watres as he was the only prominent man in Blakely township, and besides this it was at his suggestion that the title was given. Esquire Watres drove down the valley to Tripp to deliver the document, in company with the writer in the spring of 1846. We found Ira in the field ploughing in his shirt sleeves. When the object of our visit was made known to him he was greatly surprised. He stopped his team, invited us into his house and regaled us with whisky, cake and cigars and this ended the matter. No newspapers were printed in the county between Wilkes-Barre and Carbondale, consequently the affair was known but by few.

A handsome memorial volume has been published at Harrisburg, bearing this title: *THE BOWMAN FAMILY. A Historical and Memorial Volume.* By Rev. Dr. S. L. Bowman and Rev. J. B. Young. Harrisburg 1885: Publishing Department M. E. Book Room.

It is privately printed for distribution within the Bowman family and comprises 258 pages.

#### MARRIAGES.

BENEDICT—WILLIAMS.—In Pittston, Sept. 2, by Rev. D. C. Olmstead, Thomas Benedict and Miss Anna L. Williams, both of Pittston.

CHEMBERLIN—ADAMS.—In Binghamton, Aug. 31, by Rev. R. G. Quennell, J. E. Chamberlin, of Pittston, and Miss Jennie Adams, of Binghamton, N. Y.

HEMMERSLEY—ECKROTE.—In Camden, N. J., Sept. 5, John Hemmersley and Miss Dora Eckrote, both of Conyngham.

KLECKNER—STILES.—In Bloomsburg, Sept. 2, George Kleckner, of Nanticoke, and Miss Emma Stiles, of Bloomsburg.

ROAT—TYRRELL.—In Kingston, Sept. 8, by Rev. A. Griffin, E. C. Roat and Miss Jeunie Tyrrell both of Kingston.

STROUSE—ORR.—In Phillipsburg, N. J., Aug. 26, William Orr and Miss Ella Strouse, both of Sandy Run.

THOMAS—ELLIS.—In Wilkes-Barre, Sept. 3, by Alderman Wesley Johnson, Daniel Thomas and Miss Jane Ellis both of Kingston.

TRUMBOWER—RICHART.—In West Pittston, Sept. 8, by Rev. D. Stroud, Charles Trumbower and Miss Jessie Richart both of West Pittston.

#### DEATHS.

COLE.—In Shickshiny, Aug. 29, Samuel Cole, aged 84 years.

DUFFY.—In Pittston, Aug. 31, Patrick Duffy, aged 61 years.

GILLESPIE.—In Port Griffith, Sept. 6, Patrick Gillespie, aged 48 years.

HARVEY.—In Bear Creek, Amanda Laning, wife of William J. Harvey.

LLEWELLYN.—In Pittston, Sept. 3, John R. Llewellyn, aged 46 years.

MCDOWALL.—In Pittston, Sept. 2, John McDowall, aged 19 years.

MCCOX.—At Drifton, Aug. 23, Daniel McCoy, aged about 70 years.

MORAN.—At Freeland, Sept. 1, Thomas, son of John Moran, aged 11 years.

OWENS.—In Hamtown, Sept. 6, Hannah, wife of James Owens aged 53 years.

PATERSON.—At Jeddo, Aug. 26, John W. Paterson, aged 20 years.

ROBERTSON.—In Hooney Brook, Sept. 6, Mrs. Ann Robertson, aged 77 years.

SHALES.—In Wilkes-Barre, Sept. 5, Nathan, son of Lewis S. Shales, aged 8 years and 7 months.

SHIVELY.—In Scranton, Sept. 4, Sylvester Shively, formerly of Wilkes-Barre, aged 51 years.

WITMAN.—In Hanover Township, Sept. 4, Mrs. Samuel Witman, aged 63 years.

WANDEL.—In Plymouth, Aug. 25, Wesley G. Wandel, aged 40 years.

WILLIAMS.—At Drifton, Aug. 30, Margaret wife of John D. Williams, aged 46 years.





# The Historical Record

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION

DEVOTED PRINCIPALLY TO

## The Early History of Wyoming Valley

AND CONTIGUOUS TERRITORY

WITH

## NOTES AND QUERIES

BIOGRAPHICAL, ANTIQUARIAN, GENEALOGICAL

---

EDITED BY F. C. JOHNSON, M. D.

Vol. I]

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OCTOBER 1886

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[No. 2

WILKES-BARRE, PA.

Press of The Wilkes-Barre Record

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# The Historical Record

*Compiled from the Wilkes-Barre Record*

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# The Historical Record

VOL. I.

OCTOBER, 1886.

No. 2.

## The Family of Capt. Lazarus Stewart.

[Contributed by Dr. W. H. Egle, Harrisburg.]

In the RECORD's notice of the death of Lee W. Stewart, of Shickshinny, it is stated that "he was a son of Lazarus Stewart, a great grandson of Lazarus Stewart, native of Scotland, who came to this country and settled in Lancaster County in 1729," and also that "Capt. Lazarus Stewart was Lee's grandfather." I naturally turned to my notes of that family and also to Mr. Plumb's very valuable History of Hanover Township. As I hope to complete a genealogical record of this family for a second volume of Pennsylvania Genealogies, and in the hope of obtaining additional information, I beg leave to present the following contributions:

LAZARUS STEWART, the first emigrant, came with his family from the north of Ireland to America, in 1729. The same year he settled on a tract of land "situate on Swahatawro Creek," in afterwards Hanover Township, Lancaster Co. With the aid of two Redemptioners, whose passages were paid by him, he built within that and the two years following a house and barn, cleared twenty odd acres of arable land and planted an orchard. He died about 1744. His farm was a long time in dispute, owing to the fact that the warrant never having been issued, his son Lazarus took out a warrant for the same land. After the death of the first Lazarus' wife, a suit was brought by William Stewart, eldest son of John Stewart, for the recovery of his share in his grandfather's estate. A distribution was made in 1785, and it is from this that we have the foundation for the record here given. Mr. Plumb states that the first Lazarus Stewart had children, *Robert* and *Alexander*, Capt. Lazarus Stewart being the son of the former. According to my authority, which is the original records in the settlement of the estate, his children were as follows:

- i. *John*; m. *Frances* —.
- ii. *Margaret*; m. *James Stewart*.
- iii. *Margery*; m. *John Young*, and left issue
- iv. *Lazarus*; who m. and left issue; nothing further known of him; probably removed to Western Pennsylvania, as a Lazarus Stewart was a sheriff of Allegheny County about the close of last century.
- v. *Peter*; prior to 1760 removed to North Carolina.

vi. *James*; removed with his brother to North Carolina.

vii. *David*; m. and removed to North Carolina.

*John Stewart*, eldest son of Lazarus Stewart, d. April 8, 1777, in Hanover Township, Lancaster Co., aged about 65 years. His wife, *Frances* —, d. November 16, 1790. Their children were as follows:

i. *William*; m. *Mary* —.

ii. *Lazarus*; m. *Dorcas Hopkins*.

iii. *George*; m. *Rebecca Fleming*.

iv. *James*; m. *Margaret* —.

v. *John*; m. *Margaret Stewart*.

vi. *Mary*; m. *George Espy*.

vii. *Jane*; m. — *Armstrong*.

Mr. Plumb gives the 2d, 3d and 6th as children of Alexander Stewart.

*Margaret Stewart*, eldest daughter of Lazarus Stewart, senior, married *James Stewart*, of Hanover, a cousin or second cousin. Their children were:

i. *Charles*; b. about 1732; m. and left issue.

ii. *Lazarus*; b. about 1734; the "Paxtang Ranger," Capt. Lazarus Stewart; m. *Martha Espy*.

iii. *James*; b. about 1737; m. *Priscilla Espy*; and had one son, *Lazarus*. *Priscilla Espy Stewart*, when a widow, married Capt. Andrew Lee. From Lazarus, the son of James, comes Lee W. Stewart, lately deceased.

Capt. Lazarus Stewart, (son of Margaret Stewart and James Stewart,) who fell in that doleful massacre of July 3, 1778, m. *Martha Espy*. Of their children, the information which follows was received from Hon. Stewart Pearce, author of the "Annals of Luzerne County," a year prior to his death, Oct. 13, 1882. He writes:

"Enclosed I send you all I know about Capt. Stewart's descendants. Respecting himself see "Annals of Luzerne." The date of his death in that book is wrong. He was born in 1733, and married *Martha Espy*, whose father lived in Lancaster, now Dauphin County. I do not know the date of his children's birth or death.

"Their son JAMES STEWART married Hannah Jameson, whose children were *Martha*, married Abram Tolles; *Frances*, married Benjamin A. Bidlack; *Abigail*, married Abraham Thomas; *Caroline*, married Rev. Morgan Sherman; *Lazarus* and *Mary*, who both died single. My father, Rev. Marmaduke Pearce, married James Stewart's widow





and had three children. *Stewart, Cromwell* and *John*. My father named me in honor of my mother's first husband.

"ELIZABETH STEWART married Alexander Jameson, whose children were *William*, who m. *Margaret Henry*; *Robert*, who d. unmarried; *Minerva*, who m. Dr. A. B. Wilson; *Elizabeth*, who m. Rev. Francis Macartney; *Martha*, who d. recently unmarried.

"JOSIAH STEWART m. Mercy Chapman, removed to Western New York at an early day, but I have not been able to trace him out. He had two daughters, one named *Hannah*, the name of the other I do not know.

"MARY STEWART m. Rev. Andrew Gray. Mr. Gray was born in County Down, Ireland, Jan. 1, 1757, d. Aug. 13, 1839. He lived in Paxtang and came to Wyoming, and settled in Hanover, where he preached. He was a Presbyterian. He removed to Western New York, was a missionary several years among the Seneca Indians, and finally settled at Dansville, Livingston county, N. Y. His children were *James*, m. Rebecca Roberts; *Margaret*, m. Richard Gillespie; *Jane*, m. Daniel Gallatin; *William*, d. unmarried; *Andrew*, left home young and was never heard from; *Maria*, m. James Jack; *Martha*, d. unmarried; *Elizabeth*, m. Robert Perine. I received this information respecting Gray's family from Mrs. Jane Knappenborg, a daughter of Martha Gray Gillespie. Mrs. K. resides at Dansville, N. Y.

"PRISCILLA STEWART, m. Joseph Avery Rathbun, who also settled in Western New York. Their children were *John*, *Lazarus*, *Joseph*. They all married and have descendants at or near Almond, N. Y.

"MARGARET STEWART m. James Campbell. They both lived and died in Hanover Township, Luzerne County. Their children were *James S.*, who died unmarried; *Martha*, who m. James S. Lee; *Mary*, who m. Jameson Harvey; *Peggy*, who m. James Dilley. There are several descendants—Lees, Harveys and Dilleys—residing in the Wyoming Valley.

"MARTHA STEWART, d. unmarried.

"I advertised in western New York papers for information respecting the Grays, Rathbuns and Josiah Stewart. They all have descendants living there now, but I could not find out anything about Josiah Stewart's family any further than what I have stated."

I may add to this already too lengthy communication that I shall be very glad to receive information relating to this family of Stewarts.

WILLIAM H. EGLE.

#### The Cleveland-Folsom Genealogy.

In Dr. Egle's Notes and Queries in the *Harrisburg Telegraph* is given the ancestry of President Cleveland, and incidentally of his spouse. It is that Deacon William Cleve-

land, the father of President Cleveland, descended from Aaron (1), Aaron (2), Aaron (3), son of Moses Cleveland, the first American ancestor. Deacon William Cleveland married Margaret Falley, who descended from Luke Hitchcock (1639), through Margaret Hitchcock, who married Samuel Falley. Their son, Rev. Richard Falley Cleveland, m. Anne Neal, of Baltimore, 1829, and had issue:

- i. *Anne Neal*, m. Rev. Erotas P. Hastings.
- ii. *Rev. William Neale*, m. Anne Thomas.
- iii. *Mary Allen*; m. William E. Hoyt.
- iv. *Richard Cecil*; died without issue.
- v. *Stephen Grover*; b. at Caldwell, N. Y., March 18, 1837; m. June 2, 1886, Frances, daughter of Oscar Folsom, descendant in the eight generation from John Folsom, who came to America in 1640.
- vi. *Margaret Louisa*; m. Norval B. Bacon.
- vii. *Lewis Frederick*; died without issue.
- viii. *Susan Sophia*; m. Hon. Lucien T. Yeoman.
- ix. *Rose Elizabeth*; b. June 13, 1846; unmarried.

Both the President and his wife are descendants of a long line of clergymen of the Presbyterian faith.

#### A Great-Great Grandmother Dead.

Nearly a century ago, or to be more exact, on the 19th day of May, 1791, there was born in Greenwich, N. J., Moriah Arnold. The child grew to womanhood, married Andrew Raub, became a mother, then a grandmother, later a great-grandmother, and finally a great-great-grandmother—a dignity which attaches to but a very favored few. She lived a happy and useful life, shedding sunlight into hundreds of homes, ministering to the sick and bestowing alms upon the poor and leaving her children and theirs the benediction of a lovely life, she passed from earth Wednesday, Aug. 18 at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Addison Church, in Luzerne Borough.

"Aunt Moriah" was what she was called the country round, and a host of warm and loving friends she had. She married at her native town when 23 years old, and three years later came to the Wyoming Valley, where she was to spend 69 years amid peace and plenty. Her husband came first to Wyoming Valley in 1816 to visit his friend, John Sharps (father of the late Jacob Sharps), who was also from the same Jersey town as himself. Mr. Raub was wont to tell his children ever afterwards about that visit, for it was during the cold summer of 1816—a year when every month had its frost. He used to say that in June there was a snow-storm which bore heavily upon the wheat, then in bloom; that many of the farmers took clothes-lines and scraped the snow from the bending grain; that those who did





this lost their crops, while the ones who trusted to nature had no harm come to their grain; and that when the harvest finally came the farm hands went to the fields wearing their great-coats.

Notwithstanding the inclement weather Mr. Raub determined to make his home in this beautiful valley and he brought his wife the following year and purchased a farm in Kingston Township. On this spot he and his good wife lived 45 years, until his demise in 1862, and she has never lived more than a mile distant from the original home. Mrs. Raub drank from the same spring during all these 69 years and it still yields refreshment to the families of Samuel Raub and Addison Church. During the last dozen years, when the infirmities of age came upon her, Mrs. Raub lived with her daughter, Mrs. Charch, who lovingly and patiently ministered to her every want. A year ago last March she made a mis-step while walking across her bedroom floor and sustained a fracture of the hip, as a result of which she took to her bed and never left it. Her decline was then rapid. As her bodily powers became weak her mind lost its vigor and became dim. The sunshine gave way to mental torpor and the once active memory became almost a blank. Thus she sank peacefully and painlessly into her last sleep of earth. During life she was warmly attached to the Presbyterian Church, of which she was a communicant, and in the consolation of its doctrine she passed from earth without a murmur.

Her surviving children are: Nancy, wife of James Atherton, Osceola, Pa.; Mrs. Surrenda Mathers, Luzerne; Andrew Raub, Dallas; Samuel Raub, Luzerne; Mrs. Martha Bonham, Luzerne; Mrs. Mary Bonham, Elkland, Tioga County; Mrs. Addison Church, Luzerne.

Mrs. Andrew Raub, was buried on Friday afternoon from the residence of her grandson, Addison Church, in Luzerne Borough. Services were held at the house at 3 pm., Revs. H. H. Welles and E. Hazard Snowden officiating. An appropriate hymn was also sung by some of the ladies present. The gathering of friends and relatives was very large, and a long cortege of carriages followed the remains to their last resting place in Forty Fort Cemetery. Brief services were also held at the grave. The following, all of whom are grandsons of the deceased, acted as pall bearers: J. W. Bonham, W. S. Bonham, Edgar E. Raub, Thomas R. Atherton, Andrew R. Mathers and Andrew G. Raub.

In 1767 the first church bell rang in a Moravian church at Wyalusing.

In 1770 the first house built in Pittston, a log building, was erected by Zebulon Marcy.

#### AN AGED MASON'S DEATH.

**Thomas W. Robinson Dies in this City at the Ripe Old Age of 83 Years—Sketch of his Life.**

Thomas Walter Robinson, died at his residence, corner of Union and Franklin Streets, at an early hour Tuesday, Aug. 12, surrounded by his sons and daughters, all save his son William, now advanced in years and living in the far West, being present at his bedside. The deceased for a year or more has been a sufferer from diabetes in a mild form, but until within the last month or so has kept up, being able to attend to his duties of tipstaff in the County Courts almost to the end.

Mr. Robinson was born in Yorkshire, England, in January, 1803, where he was married at the age of 19 to Miss Martha Todd, and with his young wife soon after emigrated to this country. He arrived in Wilkes-Barre in about 1828, where he obtained employment with Judge Matthias Hollenback, who kept a store at the corner of River and Market Streets, where J. H. Swoyer's office now is, and was also engaged in the milling business. Judge Hollenback died in 1829, but Mr. Robinson still continued with his son, George M., for several years. His principal duties were to attend about the store and drive a team for carting flour from the stone mill to Carbondale at the starting up of coal mining there. After working for Mr. Hollenback for a time he rented the oil and plaster mill of his employer situate in Hartsuff's Hollow, now Luzerne Borough, which he operated for a few years, and having saved up enough money to carry him to the far West soon after the close of the Black Hawk war, in 1832 or 1833, emigrated to Illinois and settled on Indian River, about thirty miles from Chicago, which at that time was merely a trading post; and land anywhere half a mile away from old Fort Dearborn could be entered at Government price, \$1.25 per acre.

While living on Indian River, where he had charge of a stage route to Galena, his wife sickened and died, and he with his two children, a girl and a boy, his son William, now living West, and his daughter, widow of the late Thomas Goucher, returned to Wilkes-Barre. After his return, for his second wife he married Emeline Hotchkiss, daughter of George Hotchkiss, who is now his surviving widow at near 75 years of age. He was engaged in various business enterprises, and while in the employ of George M. Hollenback ran the first boat load of coal that ever went from the Wyoming mines to Philadelphia; this was transported in what was called a Union Canal boat, passing down the Pennsylvania Canal to Middletown and thence crossing over by the Union Canal





to the Schuylkill at Reading, and thence down to Philadelphia. These Union boats were only of about twenty or twenty-five tons capacity, and the coal was delivered to Jordan & Brother, after which the boat brought a return freight of groceries to Mr. Hollenback's store.

After a few years sojourn here he again left for the West, going this time to St. Louis, but was again forced to return on account of sickness in his family. Since his second return he has been principally engaged in the confectionery and baking business in this city, in Kingston, in Pittston and in Hazleton. At one time he kept a place of entertainment on the southwest side of Public Square, which was a favorite resort and headquarters of the famous Mugletonian Society, composed of young men of that day of festive and convivial habits.

For the last ten or more years he has served as tipstaff in the county courts, and also as tyler and guardian of the outer door of the temple for the various Masonic lodges. Of this latter duty he was relieved a couple of years ago by reason of his failing strength, but the lodge kindly continued his salary as such while another performed the duty. He was one of the oldest members of No. 61, F. and A. M. He was also a member of the Holy Royal Arch Chapter and of Dieu-le-Veut Commandery, No. 45, of Knights Templar, and took a deep interest in the work of Freemasonry, both in the blue lodges and the more advanced brotherhood with which he was affiliated.

The dying patriarch was approached only a few days ago by a member of the Commandery, who inquired of him as to his wishes in case he should not survive his present illness. He promptly replied that old 61 was his first love and he desired nothing further than to be borne to his last resting place by the members of the Masonic fraternity. The principles of morality and religion as taught within the lodge formed at all time his religious creed, and he hoped and trusted that it would be by the strong grip of the lion's paw and on the five points of fellowship that the Supreme Grand Master would finally raise him from actual death, and whisper in his ear the word of a spiritual master mason that will admit him to full fellowship within that grand heavenly temple, not builded by mortal hand. Besides the son and daughter of his first wife he leaves four sons and one daughter, wife of Marcus Smith of this city. His second son, George S. Robinson, is a distinguished member of the theatrical profession.

In 1820 coal to the amount of 800 tons was mined in the Wyoming Valley.

In 1822 St. Stephen's Episcopal church, Wilkes-Barre, was completed.

## STEPHEN BRULE.

### The First White Man Who Descended the Susquehanna.

In his department of *Notes and Queries* in the *Harrisburg Telegraph* Dr. W. H. Eggle publishes a most interesting account of the first white man who descended the Susquehanna River. The narrative is derived from John Gilmary Shea, LL. D., and is to the effect that one Stephen Brule crossed from Lake Ontario to the head waters of the Susquehanna, descended the North Branch to within a few miles of Shamokin, and furnished the Jesuit Fathers with the earliest information we have of the Aborigines of that section.

"Stephen Brule, whose eulogy of the country of the Neutrals, led Father de la Roche Dailon, to visit them, had, we must infer, already been in that part of the country, and been struck by its advantages. He came over at a very early age and was employed by Champlain from about 1610 and perhaps earlier. He was one of the first explorers, proceeding to the Huron country and acquiring their language was to serve as an interpreter. (Laverdiere's *Champlain* 12 pp. 244, 266.) As early as Sept. 8, 1-15, when Champlain was preparing to join the Hurons in their expedition against the Entouahonorons, in Central New York, Stephen Brule set out with a party of twelve Hurons from Upper Canada for the towns of the Carantouannais, allies of the Hurons, living on the Susquehanna, and evidently forming part of the confederacy known later as the Andastes, (Ib. p. 35) to secure their co-operation against the enemy.

He crossed from Lake Ontario apparently to the Susquehanna, defeated a small Iroquois party and entered the Carantouannais town in triumph. The force marched too slowly to join Champlain, and Brule returned to their country where he wintered. He descended their river (the Susquehanna), visiting the neighboring tribes, meeting several who complained of the harshness of the Dutch. At last he started to rejoin his countrymen, but his party was attacked and scattered by the Iroquois and Brule losing his way entered an Iroquois village. He tried to convince them that he was not of the same nation of whites who had just been attacking them, but they fell upon him, tore out his nails and beard and began to burn him in different parts of the body. He was far from being an exemplary character, but wore an Agnus Dei, and when the Indians went to tear this from his neck he threatened them with the vengeance of heaven. Just then a terrible thunder storm came up, his tormentors fled and the chief released him. After he had





spent some time with them they escorted him four days' journey and he made his way to the Atinouaentans the Huron tribe occupying the peninsula between Nattawassaga and Matchedash bays on Lake Huron (Laverdiere's Champlain 1619, pp. 134-140, 1615 p. 26; Sagard, *Histoire du Canada* p. 466.)

He found Champlain in 1618, and made his report to him. It was apparently on this return march that he passed through the territory of the Neuters, as it would be his safest course. We find him in Quebec in 1623, when he was sent to meet and bring down the Hurons coming to trade. He returned with them, leading a very dissolute life among the Indians (as Sagard complained), Laverdiere's Champlain 1624, p. 81. When Kirk took Quebec he went over to the English, and was sent up to the Hurons in their interest in 1629, notwithstanding the bitter reproaches of Champlain. (Ib. 1632, p. 267.) Sagard, writing in 1636, states that provoked at his conduct the Hurons put him to death and devoured him. Sagard, *Histoire du Canada*, p. 466, Lejeune Relation 1633, p. 34. The latter fact is not mentioned by the Jesuits. From the remark of Father Brebeuf (Relation 1635, p. 28), it would seem that he met his death at the very town, Toanchain, whence Father de la Roche wrote. It was about a mile from Thunder Bay. — (Laverdiere's Champlain 1619, p. 27.)

Such was the fate of the man who was the first to cross from Lake Ontario to the Susquehanna, and pass from the villages of the Iroquois through the neutral territory to the shores of Lake Huron."

#### Poetry of Wyoming Valley.

John S. McGroarty, of this city, has recently published a handsome little volume of 118 pages on *The Poets and Poetry of Wyoming Valley*. It is dedicated to the compiler's colleague on the *Sunday Leader*, Mr. C. Ben. Johnson. As the preface says, the book is simply a collection of samples of the poetical literature of Wyoming Valley during the last 100 years. The idea is so excellent, and the tidbits furnished are so toothsome, one would like to have an entire spread, rather than the little lunch which is provided. However, the work can be amplified in subsequent editions, and we trust that the author will feel disposed to do so. Another feature, which would render a future edition much more valuable, would be its enrichment by footnotes, particularly in the cases of such of the writers as have passed over to the silent majority. For example it would be interesting for the general reader to know something of Uriah Terry, who as early as 1785, poetized the slaughter at

Wyoming which took place only seven years previously; of James Sinton, who in 1812, wrote of the Poor Man and the Doctor; of Richard Drinker, who in 1819 wrote an Address to a Lan Tortoise; of Charles Mowery, author of *A Yankee Song* in 1893. More familiar names are those of Andrew Beaumont, a distinguished side of brave sons and accomplished daughters; Josiah Wright, who published the *Wilkes-Barre Gazette* from 1797 to 1801; Charles Miner, the historian of Wyoming, publisher of the *Wilkes-Barre Federalist* from 1802 to 1809, and of the *Gleaner* until 1816; Sarah Miner, the latter's blind daughter and faithful amanuensis, whose will now on file in the Register's Office, is the briefest on record; Isaac A. Chapman, who published the *Wilkes-Barre Gleaner* in 1816-17; Charles F. Welles, (1810), father of our townsman, John Welles Hollenback; Amos Sisty, editor of the *Wilkes-Barre Advocate* from 1838 to 1843, the paper which in 1853, under the ownership of William P. Miner, became the *RECORD OF THE TIMES* of to-day. Of the writers recently deceased are Dr. Harrison Wright, Lizzie Gordon, (daughter of the late historical writer, James A. Gordon, Esq.) and Mrs. Harriet Gertrude Watres, (Stella, of Lackawanna,) one of the most talented poets who ever graced this region.

Hon. Steuben Jenkins, the most thoroughly versed Wyoming historian now living is represented; Caleb E. Wright, the able Doylestown lawyer, fisherman and novelist; Susan Evelyn Dickinson, sister of the well-known lecturer and actress, Miss Anna Dickinson; Hon. J. E. Barrett, editor of *Scranton Truth*; Mrs. M. L. T. Hartman, author of the history of Huntington Valley; Ione Kent, whom the *RECORD* readers have admired as "Francis Hale Barnard;" Will S. Monroe, who was offered the editorship of *Literary Life* previous to its offer to Rose Elizabeth Cleveland; E. A. Niven and "Tom Allen" Osborne, of the *Leader*; Timothy Parker, the veteran jeweler; Claude G. Whetstone, of the *Philadelphia Times*; Mrs. Mary B. Richart, originator of the Lake Winola legend; David M. Jones and Clarence P. Kidder, the poet-lawyers; the poet physicians, Dr. Higgins and Dr. Doyle.

Though not strictly a Wyoming Valley writer Mr. McGroarty has inserted two exquisitely beautiful poems written by Homer Greene, of Honesdale, the ones that made him famous—My Daughter Louise and What My Lover Said.

Some of the poetry is crudity itself and is only interesting as preservative a variety of authorship. Much of it is excellent and a credit to our beautiful and historic Valley. Other writers—and the list is not as complete as it might be—are R. B. Brundage, P. A. Culver, Hattie Clay, P. F. Durkan, S. H.





Daddow, Mary Dale Culver Evans, David Edmunds, Bertha E. Millard, J. E. McDonald, T. E. Morpeth, P. J. McManus, Philip O'Neill, W. G. Powell, T. P. Ryder, Fred. Shelly Ryman, Alice Smith, R. H. Tubbs.

Mr. McGroarty himself contributes three pretty creations of his own—all in the sombre strain peculiar to the promising young author whose verse is never trilling but always dignified in its tone and pointing some good moral to adorn the tale. Though the volume shows evidence of undue haste in its preparation, yet it is a most creditable production and well worthy a place on the library shelf of every one who has any local pride in the history and traditions of the Valley of Wyoming—made famous already in verse by Campbell, Fitz-Greene Halleck, Mrs. Sigourney and Coppe.

#### PENNSYLVANIA VS. CONNECTICUT.

**Account of a Meeting of Luzerne Land Owners 18 Years After the Decree of Trenton, in Which They Still Defend the Connecticut Title**

[Contributed by Hon. Steuben Jenkins.]

The following account of a meeting of the Connecticut Settlers in Old Luzerne, sent me by Dr. Wm. H. Egle, of Harrisburg, is of some interest from the fact that it was held more than 18 years after the Decree of Trenton, and more than two years after the passage of the Act of Assembly, which, with its supplements, gave 17 of the disputed towns to the settlers for a mere nominal consideration. The residence of Peter Stevens, although at the time in the then township of Springfield, soon after was in Wyalusing. Old Springfield, on the east side of the river, was called Wyalusing, while that portion of it on the west side of the river was made into Terry, which was subsequently divided and a part of it called Wilmot.

The meeting tells its own story, and shows how strongly the settlers believed in the right and justice of their claim, and how bold and determined they were in defending it against every encroachment.

At a Meeting of Delegates from a number of Townships in the County of Luzerne, held at the house of Peter Stevens, in Springfield, on the 22d of May, 1801, to consult and advise on the most safe, prudent, legal and Constitutional Method of Defence against any Suits that are now pending, or may hereafter be brought against any settlers under the Connecticut Title, Daniel Kinne chosen chairman and Samuel Baldwin clerk.

Whereas, The Constitution of the United States provides that the judiciary authorities shall extend to controversies between citizens of the same State claiming lands under grants of different States; and

Whereas, By the laws of the United States it is provided that, in actions commenced in a State court, the title of lands being concerned, and the parties citizens of the same State, and the matter in the dispute exceed the sum of 500 dollars, etc., either party before the trial shall state to the court and make affidavit, if the court require it that he claims and shall rely upon a right or title to the lands, under a grant from a State other than that in which the suit is pending, etc., and shall move that the adverse party inform the court whether he claims a right or title to the land under a grant from the State in which the suit is pending: the said adverse party shall give such information or otherwise not be allowed to plead such grant or give it in evidence upon the trial: and if he informs that he does claim under such grant, the party claiming under the grant first mentioned, may then on motion, remove the cause for trial to the next Circuit Court, to be holden in such district, etc.

And whereas, We have settled on lands under a title derived from the State of Connecticut, antecedent to the settlement of the jurisdiction between the States of Pennsylvania and Connecticut, and do rely upon a right or title to the lands under a grant derived from the State of Connecticut; therefore

1, Resolved, That we will in every legal and constitutional manner, maintain, support and defend the Title to our Land, as derived from the State of Connecticut, in all suits commenced, or which shall be commenced in the Courts of the State or of the United States, and that it be recommended to the Settlers claiming and holding Lands under the Connecticut Title aforesaid, to unite with us in supported and defending the same in manner aforesaid.

2, Resolved, That three Agents be appointed to appear for us and in our Names to support and defend the Title of our Lands, held and claimed under the aforesaid Title in all Suits now pending, or that may hereafter be commenced as aforesaid, with full power and authority to engage Counsel, learned in the Law, to appear for us and defend said Title in the Courts of this State or of the United States.

3, Resolved, That Messrs. John Franklin, John Jenkins and Ezekiel Hyde be, and they are hereby appointed Agents for the purposes aforesaid.

4, Resolved, That we will each of us advance our equal proportion in money according to our Interest in the aforesaid Titles, and deposit the same in the hands of Agents or such Person or Persons as they shall appoint, for the purpose of maintaining and defending our just Title to our Lands aforesaid; and we also hereby recom-





ment to all Settlers holding Lands and relying on the Title aforesaid, to advance such sums, in proportion to the Interest they severally claim and hold under such Title, as will enable said Agents to employ Counsel and defray the necessary expenses, and prosecuting and carrying the foregoing resolves into effect.

5, Resolved, And whereas it has been represented to this Meeting by an instrument of writing under the hand of Abraham Horn, Esq., the Agent appointed under the Act of the General Assembly of this State passed the 16th of February, 1801, that he is authorized to acquaint the Settlers of Luzerne, that the Pennsylvania Landholders, agreeably to the Instructions given to the Agent, are disposed to offer an easy compromise.

Therefore, Resolved that our agents be and they are hereby directed to receive any proposals that may be made by the Pennsylvania Landholders or their Agents legally authorized respecting an amicable compromise of the land in controversy and report such proposals to the settlers aforesaid.

6, Resolved, That the foregoing Resolutions be signed by the Chairman and Clerk, and that the same be published in the public Papers printed at Wilkes-Barre.

Signed, DANIEL KINNE, Chairman.  
SAMUEL BALDWIN, Clerk.

#### Bassett Family Re-Union

A re-union picnic of the descendants of Luther Bassett was held in Boyd's grove, near Danville, on Friday, Sept. 3. Luther Bassett was a son of Jeremiah and Elizabeth Simpson Bassett, his father being of Irish, and his mother of Scotch decent, while in the veins of his wife ran German blood. The family all told (living members) numbers 111, of whom 56 were present. There are living five children, 32 grand-children, 44 great grand children, and five great-great-grand-children. Among those present were Dr. W. G. Weaver, of Wilkes-Barre; I. C. Kline, of Kline's Grove, formerly a teacher in the Wilkes-Barre public schools; Mrs. Margaret Morgan and three children of Kingston. Elliot R. Morgan, of Kingston, is also a relative.

The Doylestown *Intelligencer* of Aug. 21, contains a paper read before the Bucks County Historical Society July 27, by Rev. D. K. Turner on the Schools of Neshaminy. The same print also contains the paper on John and Jacob Holcombe, read at the joint meeting of the Hunterdon County (N. J.) Historical Society and the Holcombe family reunion, on Aug. 11, by Dr. George Holcombe Larison.

#### THE REDEMPTIONERS.

##### A Philanthropic Form of Servitude now Passed Away—How a Luzerne County Family of these People was Swept Away by a Cruel Fatality.

Of all the conditions of servitude in this country, those of the Redemptioners were least oppressive. They were those who, being too poor to pay in money for their ocean passage, contracted absolutely to serve for a term the value of which should equal the cost of their transportation. It is important to remember that they were *really sold*. The "contract" was probably made with the captain, or owner of the vessel which brought them, agreeing to be sold and bound, upon arriving here, to some person who, for the least number of years of their service to him would pay the cost of their passage. I doubt if any special law covering this condition of servitude was ever in existence; it is probable that the redemptioners were governed by the general laws referring to hereditary slaves and feudal tenure. The cost of the voyage at the time the earliest settlers came to America was eight or ten pounds sterling, and it took five years of service in 1672 to repay this obligation. There was little variety in work here; it was usually agricultural or mere laboring. It is significant that, while the value of a white person in such circumstances was ten pounds, that of a negro was twenty-five pounds. Negroes had been enslaved in Africa, among each other, from time immemorial. They were first taken to Europe by the Portuguese in 1443, and to America (the Virginia Colony) by the Dutch in 1620. The conquering armies of Christendom likewise usually held their captives in slavery. To free the Christians among these latter an institution of religious monks was founded, which bore the name of Redemptioners, or Trinitarians, and it is supposed that our Redemptioners took this title from that institution. Perhaps the same name was applied to the prisoners of war sent here. The Scots taken in the field of Dunbar were sent into involuntary servitude in New England; and the Royalist prisoners of the battle of Worcester, (of whom the names of 270 are recorded) and the leaders in the insurrection of Penruddock were sent to America. The fact that their servitude was involuntary, however, differentiates them from the genuine Redemptioners. The Redemptioner's term of service could be transferred, but he was not in the position of an ordinary white servant, who was a frequent article of traffic, though the laws of the colonies favored their early emancipation. How many Redemptioners came to America can never be known; some came to





Luzerne County—among the rest Conrad Knoch, the humble narrative of whose life is very pathetic, and probably typical in general of many others. He was born in Germany in 1759, and, like a sensible boy, fell in love with a girl about his own age, which fired both of them with zeal to make life a success. But they were too poor to be married in Germany. The Redeptioner's plan came to their aid, and they landed in Philadelphia about 1784, were both purchased at their solicitation by the same person, at whose place they were married. There they worked like Germans till 1815 or '16, by which time they had not only redeemed themselves, but also saved enough to purchase 128 acres of land in Luzerne County, (Hanover Township,) as well as an abundance of the equipments of farming. A large family had by this time graced their union, and they all grew to man and woman hood, and one daughter married and became a mother; but here interposed one of the strange fatalities of nature: the father and mother and all of the children and the grandchild in quick succession were swept away as if by the hand of God. There is not an heir in America. The property descended to the nephews and nieces in Germany. They sold it for \$1,700 to the German Consul in Philadelphia, who had been appointed administrator of the estate and who resigned the office to purchase the property. His heirs now draw the royalty on the coal which was made possible by brave Conrad and Elizabeth Knoch.

G. H. R. PLUMB.

#### Indian Paint-Stones.

The paint-stone in the possession of Postmaster Hope, of Paint, Ohio, says a correspondent of the Cincinnati *Commercial Gazette*, is about five inches long and three inches broad, and tapers to an edge like a stone hatchet. It is extremely heavy and looks like a smooth piece of polished iron which has been corroded, or like a piece of polished iron ore. A hole drilled through the middle makes a place for a string or thong of deer sinew by which it was attached to his belt by the Indian warrior. "What was this hatchet used for?" I asked Mr. Hope, picking up one of the paint stones. "Do you call that a hatchet?" he remarked; "look here a minute and I will show you."

He picked up a small saucer made out of granite and rudely fashioned on the principle of an India-ink saucer. He filled the hollow of the saucer with water and then rubbed the "hatchet" in it as he would have done a cake of water-color paint. In a few minutes he had a teaspoonful of brilliant vermilion paint. Applying some of it to the back of his hand in stripes it proved to be a brilliant vermilion flesh dye, bright

enough to send the most ducal Indian beau into raptures.

"This," said Mr. Hope, noting my look of amazement, "is an Indian paint-stone. It was found in this county and is a remarkably fine specimen. The Indians were accustomed to tie the paint-stones to their belts by means of thongs, and always carried them to battle. The mode of manufacturing them was quite remarkable. The Indians hunted up springs which contained oxide of iron. The iron in such springs always floats on the top in the form of a scum. This they would patiently skim off the surface with a rude spoon and collect it in a vessel which they used for the purpose. When they had collected a sufficient amount of 'skimmings' to make a paint-stone they added certain other substances, and then molded it into the hatchet shape which characterizes all the paint-stones left by the Indians. The method they employed in doing the molding is not definitely known. The springs in the neighborhood of Paint were remarkable for the amount of iron scum they yielded, and this region was a favorite resort for the Indians to make paint-stones. This one gives a bright vermilion tint, but there are others which give a bright yellow or a rich purple tint. With these colors the Indian braves could get themselves up in superb style. They would rub the paint-stone in water in this stone saucer, and then apply the stripes to their skins directly with the stone. The color which it yields does not rub off, but remains on the skin a long time. The exact recipe which the Indians employed in making the paint-stones will never be known, but the principle of all the coloring matter is the oxide of iron. This paint-scum can often be seen on the springs and streams in this vicinity now."

#### The Plumb Family in America.

G. H. R. Plumb, Esq., of this city,—whose father, Hon. H. B. Plumb, recently published a valuable History of Hanover Township, Luzerne County,—is collecting genealogical and other data concerning the Plumb family in America. Already he has on his list a hundred families, representing more than half of the States in the Union, and he expects to find a thousand more. The family name is variously spelled Plumb, Plumbe and Plum, and many of its representatives have become prominent in business, theology, statesmanship, law and the fine arts. Lawyer Plumb is rapidly adding to his mass of information by sending circulars to all of the family name of whom he can learn.

In 1800 the population of the county was only 12,839.





## HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Interesting Proceedings at the Quarterly Meeting -- Valuable Contributions -- Electing New Members--Preparations for the County Centennial.

The Wyoming Historical and Geological Society held its quarterly meeting Sept. 10. President E. L. Dana was in the chair. A. H. McClintock read the minutes. The list of contributions was read and a vote of thanks passed to the donors. The individual contributors were: A. J. Hill, M. J. Griffin, G. B. Kulp, G. M. Lang, Hon. J. A. Scranton, C. W. Darling, C. B. Dougherty, Hon. R. H. McKune, Prof. J. C. Branner, Hon. C. A. Miner, J. G. Rosengarten, Robert Baur, F. C. Johnson, Rev. J. B. Gross, Lt. A. W. Vogdes, Dr. Harvey, John Reichard, Michael Roe, Wm. D. Averill, Dr. W. H. Egle, L. H. Low, A. P. Kunkle, A. H. Welles, H. C. Wilson, E. B. Yordy, W. P. Morgan, Dr. W. H. Sharpe, S. Reynolds, *Record*, *News-Dealer*, A. E. Foote, U. S. Commissioner of Patents.

The societies contributing were Natural History Society of New Brunswick, Historical societies of Virginia, Indiana, Iowa, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Irish Catholic Benevolent Union, Lackawanna Institute of History and Science, Dauphin County Historical Society, American Philosophical Society, American Antiquarian Society, Peabody Museum, Carbondale Y. M. L. A., Presbyterian Historical Society, Brookville Society of Natural History, *Science*, Canadian Institute, Library Company of Philadelphia, Yale College, United States Geological Survey, Old Residents' Historical Association.

George M. Lang presented some relics of the Moravian settlement near Wyalusing in the last century: John Reichard, 73 specimens of Colorado minerals: H. C. Wilson, Mt. Vernon, O., Indian relics: 6 drills, perforated stone, box of bone ashes, cement used in graves, two axes, 7 celts, and 225 spear or arrow points. Mr. Wilson believes that he can trace the development of arrow-making in the specimens which he has collected—several thousand in number—and he believes the "rifled" variety to be the perfection of the lost art. It has a rifled or beveled edge, which gives it a spiral motion when in flight. Nearly all the specimens he sends are from Knox County, Ohio, though one ax was found in Bonaparte Park, Bordentown, N. J., 11 feet below the surface. He sends, from a grave opened near Fredericktown, O., by himself and son, some decayed wood, burnt bones and a lump of cement, the grave containing two skeletons.

Morgan, Bros. & Co. presented the first factory-made shoe ever made in Wilkes-

Barre, and turned out of their factory in December, 1882.

Letters were read from Brinton Cox, of Philadelphia, and George E. Waring, of Newport, accepting and returning thanks for their election as corresponding members.

Judge Dana submitted his report as meteorologist, of which the following is a synopsis:

The average temperature for August was 63 1-10 degrees, as compared with 66½ in 1885; 70 in 1884; 66 in 1883.

Average temperature for July was 67, as compared with 72 in 1885, 71¼ in 1884, 73 in 1883.

Rain fall in August was 3.12 inches, as compared with 7.77 in 1885, 3.41 in 1884, 3.84 in 1883.

Rain fall in July was 3.92, as compared with 3.19 in 1885, 4.59 in 1884 6.41 in 1883.

Rain fall in June, 1886, was 2.81, 2.44 in 1885, 3.24 in 1884, 8.12 in 1883.

Rain fall in May, 1886, was 7 inches, 2.63 in 1885, 4.27 in 1884, 5.28 in 1883.

Mr. Reynolds acknowledged the receipt of the portraits of Wilkes and Barre, for whom Wilkes-Barre is named, from the Estate of Washington Lee.

Rev. H. E. Hayden presented a photograph of a burial urn found on the island of Ossabau, on the coast of Georgia. It contained the bones of an infant child and is in the possession of Mr. Wm. Harden, librarian of the Historical Society of Georgia, who sends to the Wyoming Society.

For corresponding membership the following were proposed: Wm. M. Darlington, LL. D., of Pittsburg, and Samuel W. Pennypacker, of Philadelphia, Dr. D. G. Brinton, of the Academy of Sciences, Philadelphia, Col. J. A. Price and W. A. Wilcox, president and corresponding secretary respectively of the Lackawanna Institute of History and Science; also Hon. Steuben Jenkins, for honorary membership. Benjamin F. Morgan, E. W. Horton, F. A. Phelps and J. E. Patterson were elected to membership.

Dr. Charles F. Ingham, the society's conchologist, read a most interesting and scholarly paper on meteors, with special reference to a supposed meteor found on the farm of J. Crockett, in Ross Township, and now in possession of the society. He pronounced the stone, which is about the size of a human head, not of meteoric origin. Dr. Ingham believes it to be anorthite, brought here in the drift period from the St. Lawrence or the Great Lake region.

Judge Dana brought up the subject of observing the centenary of the erection of Luzerne County and stated that he had been promised the co-operation of Dr. W. H. Egle, Col. Frank Stewart, Rev. David Craft, Hon. P. M. Osterhout, Dr. H. Hollister,





Rev. S. S. Kennedy, D. M. Jones, Esq., Hon. C. E. Rice, Hon. Stanley Woodward, Hon. H. B. Plumb, W. P. Ryman, Esq., and Hon. H. M. Hoy. The date falls upon Sept. 25, and it was ordered that a meeting of the society be held on that day at 10 a.m., to listen to historical addresses. The Chair was empowered to appoint the necessary committees.

#### LUZERNE'S FIRST CENTURY.

##### The Occasion Commemorated by a Public Meeting Under the Auspices of the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society.

It was on the 25th of September, 1786, that Luzerne County was erected and the centennial of that event was commemorated with interesting exercises. The celebration was very properly held in the court house, Judge Woodward adjourning court at 10 o'clock, out of compliment to the historic occasion. Luzerne County has had no less than three centennial celebrations—that in 1872, in honor of the laying out of Wilkes-Barre; in 1876, in common with the National Centennial, and in 1878, the 100th anniversary of the battle and massacre of Wyoming. This being the case the present centennial lacked the feature of novelty and was permitted to pass without the pomp and circumstance usually incident to such occasions. The Wyoming Historical Society determined to not let the occasion go by unobserved and a meeting was arranged for, Gen. E. L. Dana being the chief mover in the matter.

The hour set was 10 o'clock, at which time Judge Woodward was still on the bench. He stated that in view of the historic event, so important to the county history, he had adjourned the court and ordered the fact to be spread upon the day's minutes as a perpetual record. The Judge then went on to give some historical data. He proceeded to read from the statute for erecting the county, which was an Act of Sept. 25, 1786. It provided that Luzerne County be set off from the northern portion of Northumberland County. He exhibited the first continuance docket or minute book of the county organized under the statute, from which it appeared that the first session of court was held May 29, 1787, in the house of Zebulon Butler. The first business was to organize. Dr. William Hooker Smith, Benjamin Carpenter, James Nesbitt, Timothy Pickering, Obadiah Gore, Nathan Kingsley and Matthias Hollenback were sworn in as justices of the peace. Timothy Pickering—who might have served as a prototype for Gilbert & Sullivan's *Poo Bah* in the "Mikado"—was made prothonotary, clerk of the Peace and of the Orphans' Court, register of wills and recorder of

deeds. Joseph Sprague was made court crier. Lord Butler, the first sheriff of the county, was instructed to take measures for the erection of a jail.

Judge Woodward exhibited the commission of Sheriff Butler, who was a grandfather of the Judge's wife. It bears the signature of Benjamin Franklin. The legal practitioners who were sworn in were Ebenezer Bowman, Putnam Catlin, Rosewell Welles and Wm. Nichols. The speaker exhibited the first legal paper, a capias, Sept. Term, 1787, Samuel Allen vs. Henry Burney, Catlin attorney. At that time the county contained only 2,730 taxables, now, the same territory has a population of nearly half a million. Having concluded his hasty retrospect Judge Woodward said he would come down from the bench and turn over the meeting to its proper custodian, the Historical Society.

Judge Dana, president of the society, took the chair and after a few appropriate remarks called upon Rev. E. Hazard Snowden, the oldest minister in the county, to open the exercises, and he addressed the throne of grace in language peculiarly adapted to the occasion.

Mr. C. Ben. Johnson read letters of regret from Gov. Pattison, the Rt. Rev. William Bacon Stevens, Dr. Coppee, of Lehigh University; Charles J. Hoadley, State Librarian of Connecticut; W. S. Stryker, Adjutant General of New Jersey; Henry B. Dawson, the New York historian; Miss Emily C. Blackman, author of "History of Susquehanna County;" Rev. Dr. David Craft, the historian of Wyalusing. Mr. Hoadley sent an interesting contribution—the commission of Jonathan Fitch as first Sheriff of Westmoreland, dated Hartford, Nov. 28, 1776.

Judge Dana read a brief but valuable paper—by Dr. Hollister, of Providence, who was unable to attend—on the "Birth of Luzerne County." In it reference was made to the attempt to locate the county-seat on the west side of the Susquehanna, and of Ethan Allen's scheme to bring his Green Mountain Boys here and establish an independent government in Wyoming.

Hon. Steuben Jenkins, the veteran Wyoming historian, read a paper descriptive of the government of Wyoming prior to the erection of Luzerne County. It had to deal with the Quarter Sessions, the speaker said, as Judge Woodward had with the Common Pleas. The troublous times were described, as also the local dissatisfaction with the new regime, which placed all the offices of profit in the hands of a single individual, Timothy Pickering, and he a Pennamite. The paper was a valuable contribution to local history.

Mr. C. I. A. Chapman took exceptions to





the language of the Act changing the boundary of the new county. He made the point that instead of changing the western boundary from W to N 1 degree W, as provided by the act, the change contemplated was from W to N 89 degrees W. The latter represented the contemplated change of one degree, while the former implies a change of 89 degrees, which was not contemplated. Mr. Jenkins replied that he was aware of the technical error, but he could not change the language of the Act.

A most elaborate and scholarly paper was presented by Hon. E. L. Dana on the Chevalier de la Luzerne, from whom the county derived its name. Most of the subject matter was entirely new, having been obtained by the speaker's son from the unpublished archives of the French Government. The paper revealed, what few people are aware of, how warm a friend Luzerne was to the struggling colonists and the practical aid given by him to the American cause. Not the least interesting was the official advice to Luzerne of the naming of a county for him, together with his reply, which was replete with words expressive of his love for America and for Pennsylvania, in which he had lived for a time.

The assistance given by the Paxtang Rangers to the Connecticut settlers at Wyoming in their contest with the Pennamites was graphically portrayed by Dr. W. H. Egle, of Harrisburg, who read an admirable paper on "The House of Lancaster to the Rescue." Dr. Egle was probably the best reader of the day, and his portraiture of the Hardy Scotch-Irish Presbyterians who rallied to the standard of the Yankees in their struggle against what they believed to be the tyranny of Pennsylvania was graphic in the extreme. Dr. Egle is one of the most extensive historical writers in the Commonwealth and the Historical Society was fortunate in securing his presence. His address was warmly received and generously applauded.

At this juncture the meeting adjourned until 2 p.m., when the regular order was again taken up, the first exercise being an original poem by Attorney David M. Jones, which was greeted with hearty applause.

Rev. S. S. Kennedy, traveling agent of the Luzerne County Bible Society, sent an entertaining paper, giving a historical sketch of the township of Abington, originally in Luzerne, but now in Lackawanna, and it was read in part by the chairman.

Another of the old townships—Putnam—was written up by P. M. Osterhout, Esq., of Tunkhannock, who was present and read his paper. It gave an amount of valuable data.

F. C. Johnson gave a synopsis of a paper

now being prepared by him, presenting what is virtually a chapter of unwritten history, referred to by only one historian, Miner, and disposed of by him in a sentence or two. The subject was "The Proposed Exodus of Wyoming Settlers in 1783." In that year the Connecticut settlers in Wyoming, discouraged by the Decree of Trenton, which had decided the land controversy in favor of the Pennamites, determined to seek the friendly shelter of another State. A petition was drawn up and signed by 400 settlers, asking the Assembly of New York to grant a tract of lands on the Susquehanna, beginning near the Pennsylvania line and continuing to Onoquago, immediate settlement to be made. The memorial was taken to Albany by Obadiah Gore, on horseback, where it met with favorable action of both Senate and Assembly. The exodus never took place, as such, though some of the petitioners did seek a retreat along the waters of the upper Susquehanna. As time passed by, Pennsylvania rule was found less oppressive than had been anticipated and the Wyoming people remained on their possessions. The paper was interesting as being made up of new material, the original petition, with signatures, having been furnished the speaker by the secretary of the Oneida Historical Society, and most of the other matter having been found among the State historical records at Albany.

William P. Miner, Esq., for many years editor and proprietor of the Wilkes-Barre Record, read a most entertaining paper on the progress of printing in Luzerne County. The paper began with an account of his trip on horseback from West Chester to Wilkes-Barre in September, 1832, having been promoted from the office of assistant devil in the West Chester *Village Record* to the position of imp of the ink balls in the office of the *Wyoming Herald* printed and published by Asher Miner and Steuben Butler. Mr. Miner described the primitive method by which the *Herald* was printed on a Ramage press, inked with wool-stuffed buckskin balls held in each hand. Mr. Miner alluded to these papers in his possession: *Wilkes-Barre Gazette*, 1797 to 1800; *Luzerne Federalist*, 1801 to 1811; *Gleaner*, 1811 to 1818; as well as many subsequent.

C. I. A. Chapman was called upon and made some extempore remarks on the changes in the landmarks of justice which he had witnessed in his lifetime—one the incapacity of woman to possess property in her own right, the other imprisonment for debt, and his recollection, when a boy, of seeing Rufus Bennett, the last survivor of the Wyoming massacre in jail for a paltry debt of a few dollars. Mr. Chapman exhibited a drawing of the old public square, made by him





20 years ago from memory, and showing the buildings as they appeared about 1840. The picture excited general interest.

The chairman called for extempore remarks upon Rev. Dr. N. G. Parke, Dr. Andrew Bedford, of Waverly, who has been a Luzerne medical practitioner upwards of 60 years; Mrs. M. L. Hartman, author of a History of Huntington Valley; Dr. Harry Hakes, Hon. Lewis Pugh, Wesley Johnson, Hon. L. D. Shoemaker, Rev. H. E. Hayden, and Evert Bogardus, Esq., of Norwalk, Ohio. All responded briefly. Mr. Bogardus gave some interesting reminiscences. The son of Jacob I. Bogardus, he was born in three townships—Bedford, afterwards called Dallas and subsequently set off as Lehman. He remembered when his father's nearest neighbor was Thomas Case, 2 miles north; John Whiteman, 2 miles northwest; Amos Brown, 2½ miles east. Mr. Bogardus was still loyal to old Luzerne, and pronounced it the finest region he had ever seen.

The Luzerne Bar and Bench were largely represented, also the court house officials. Among the out-of-town visitors were W. A. Wilcox, Esq., Scranton; Alvin Day, Tunkhannock; Pierce Butler, Carbondale; Rev. H. H. Welles, of Kingston, H. B. Plumb, Esq., author of "History of Hanover Township;" Col. Allabach, of Washington, the Mexican veteran who carried the American flag in the charge on Charrubusco; Rev. J. K. Peck, preacher and author; Will S. Monroe, a descendant of John Franklin and Capt. Ransom; Miss Geraldine Culver, sister of the writers.

Prior to adjournment at 4:30 Judge Dana announced that the several papers would be published by the society.

#### REV. BOSTWICK HAWLEY.

##### A Clergyman of 40 Years Ago Writes His Reminiscences of Wilkes-Barre and Encloses an Original Letter of Hon. Charles Miner.

THE RECORD is enabled, through the courtesy of Mr. G. S. Bennett, to lay before its readers an interesting letter from Rev. Dr. Bostwick Hawley, who preached to the Methodist congregation here in 1847. He is very pleasantly remembered by our older citizens, who will be glad to hear from him and to know that he is enjoying a ripe old age in Saratoga. His letter is as follows:

GEORGE SLOCUM BENNETT, A.M.—Esteemed Friend: After a lapse of twenty-two years I have read for a second time the History of Wyoming, by my late and excellent friend, the Rev. George Peck, D. D., and with deep interest. Though more than forty years have passed since I became the pastor of the First Methodist Episcopal Church, and a resident of Wilkes-Barre, this re-reading of

the instructive volume took me in vivid thought over the whole valley, as it then was—beautiful, fertile, enterprising, from the Narrows and Campbell's Ledge on the north to Nanticoke and Plymouth on the south, including the two central points, Wilkes-Barre and the "Plains" on one side of the Susquehanna and Wyoming and Forty Forty Fort on the other. Wilkes-Barre was then a beautiful village, and Wyoming was a rural gem. The whole region was unbroken and unmarred by coal operations and by railroads, except the Baltimore mine near at hand. Jacob's Plains, where I preached once in two weeks, was a beautiful region of farms and farm houses. In the little white church, now displaced by a larger one, was gathered an intelligent congregation and an excellent Sunday school. Of them I distinctly remember the Stark, Carey, and Abbott families. The late Rev. W. P. Abbott, eloquent and popular, was then a Sunday school lad, on whose head I gently placed my hand and said, "You will make a man yet." So he informed me when he was a pastor in Albany, N. Y., and that he had thence on kept track of me.

The large, intelligent and wealthy congregation that then worshiped in the old, historic and tall-steeped white church on the Square, included many whose names and features live pleasantly in my memory: among them are your honored parents and their then unbroken family; Pierce and Lord Butler, my next-door neighbors, the Hon. Andrew Beaumont and family, the Hollenbacks, Judge Conyngham, Gen. Ross and family, the Wood families, Sharp D. Lewis and family, two of whom then died as verging to maturity, Rev. B. Bidlack, Mr. and Mrs. Drake, W. W. Loomis, the Keslers, Father Moister, McAlpine and others, whose portraits adorn the walls of my mind. The family of the Hon. Charles Miner, the historian, to whose volume Dr. Peck frequently refers, and whose rural home was near by, is vividly recalled because of the intelligence of its several members, especially of Sarah, cultured and interesting in her blindness. Poet, musician, and dexterous, she was highly attractive and much beloved.

My residence at Wyoming, then New Troy, was more quiet and every way agreeable. The newly formed class was by me organized into a church; the old, weather-beaten house of worship, long unoccupied, was remodeled and improved, and filled at the morning and evening services by attentive audiences. My charge included also Forty Fort and what is now West Pittston. Among the historic and honored families whose descendants then lived in that region, are those of Myers, Jenkins, Denison, Swetland, Lee, Shoemaker, Wadhams, Pettibone





and to these I will add my well known friend, the Rev. Dr. Nelson. The delightful associations of those days were short. The constituted authorities of the church, thinking my services were more needed in another and larger place, removed me at the expiration of one year, and much to the regret of my family. Once only since those times have I visited that region, the same, but greatly changed.

The two chapters of the volume, the reading of which occasions this communication, and which most interested me, are those that contained the narratives of the original Myers family and of Frances Slocum, your great aunt, the long lost captive, borne away by the Delawares. Well did I know her brother Joseph, your grandfather, as also his manly sons and womanly daughters, than whom none were more useful or respected. I clearly call to mind in outlines the thrilling narratives of the visits made by your grandfather and two of his daughters to the forest home of the lost and found one, thrillingly interesting to me because of the character and nearness of the parties. I now see in imagination the Indian-like portrait of your great aunt as it forty years ago hung on the west wall of the parlor of the homestead. After this second reading I am induced to think that the historic name of that heroine of the valley, Martha Bennet, is retained in your family and borne by your sister, Mrs. Phelps. [Mr. Hawley is in error here as to the relationship. The Ziba Bennett family of to-day is not the same as the Bennet family of Revolutionary days. The gentleman to whom this letter is addressed comes from pioneer stock on his mother's side only.—Ed.] As the aged and good woman died so late as 1853, I am almost sure that I had the pleasure of her acquaintance and visited her home. But I am trespassing. My apology is the pleasant reminiscences evoked from the dim past, and also that I have retained these many years, with other papers and letters, one written to me by the Hon. Charles Miner, which I send to you for preservation. It is a response to an invitation that he speak at a Sunday school anniversary, when your honored father was the superintendent, and your mother and aunts were actively engaged as teachers in the school. I recall the platform built over the chancel, the baskets of "goodies" under the platform awaiting distribution to the scholars. Yourself and Martha were then among the juveniles. Not being able to render the desired services, Mr. Miner responded in the words of the beautifully written letter I herewith send to you as a part of this communication. The following is the letter retained as a keepsake these thirty-nine years.

"RETEEAT, June 25, 1847.—REV. B. HAWLEY: Rev. and Dear Sir: The first impulse of my heart was to say "yes" to your flattering invitation, but sober second thought admonishes me that a deaf man cannot be either a pleasing or an effective speaker, the ear being so necessary to the proper modulation of the voice. It would give me unaffected pleasure to do what would be agreeable to yourself, or to your society, which I so highly regard. I am sure that you will agree with me that true wisdom indicates to one of my age, deafness and imperfect health, to eschew, however attractive, the scenes of public excitement, and with cheerful resignation to cultivate those simple pleasures which my books, the cottage grounds and our domestic circle can afford. Very respectfully your friend,

CHARLES MINER."

With pleasant recollections of the long past, and with kind regards to all who recall me, I am very truly yours,

BOSTWICK HAWLEY.

Saratoga Springs, N. Y., Sept. 15, 1886.

#### A Historic Apple Tree. [Bethlehem Times.]

Last week F. H. Huth, while on a trip to the West, stopped with relatives living in Gnadenhuetten, Tuscarawas County, O., an old Moravian settlement. Among other places of interest visited was the old burying ground where, among other trees, stands an apple tree which was planted in 1774 by Christian Indians. This tree was planted eight years before the massacre of ninety-six Christian Indians at Gnadenhuetten, on the Tuscarawas River, by a band of white settlers, which occurred on March 8, 1782. The apple tree, still in good bearing condition, remains a living monument in memory of those Christian Indians whose remains sleep beneath the sod once tilled by their own hands, and now shaded by the trees which were planted by them over a hundred years ago. The tree remains also as a sad reminder of the treachery of those white settlers who committed the massacre.

#### Death of an Octogenarian.

The Hobbie Owl says that Anthony Good, one of the pioneers of Hollenback Valley, died at his late home near Hobbie on Sunday. For several weeks he failed very rapidly, and his death was the result of the wearing out of the vital forces. Anthony Good was born in Whitehall Township, Lehigh County, Pa., March, 1805. His wife preceded him to the grave by about five and a half years. The union was blessed with twenty-nine grandchildren, seventeen of whom are living.





## FRANCES SLOCUM'S RELICS.

**A Tragic Story Recalled by the Placing on Exhibition of a Number of Articles Once Belonging to the Lost Sister of Wyoming.**

THE RECORD recently reprinted from a Western paper an item to the effect that some relics once belonging to Frances Slocum, the Lost Sister, whose romantic history is known the world over, had recently been found in Wabash County, Indiana. The item was so brief and unsatisfactory that inquiries were sent to the locality mentioned, from which it is learned that while the facts were somewhat distorted there was much of truth in the published reports.

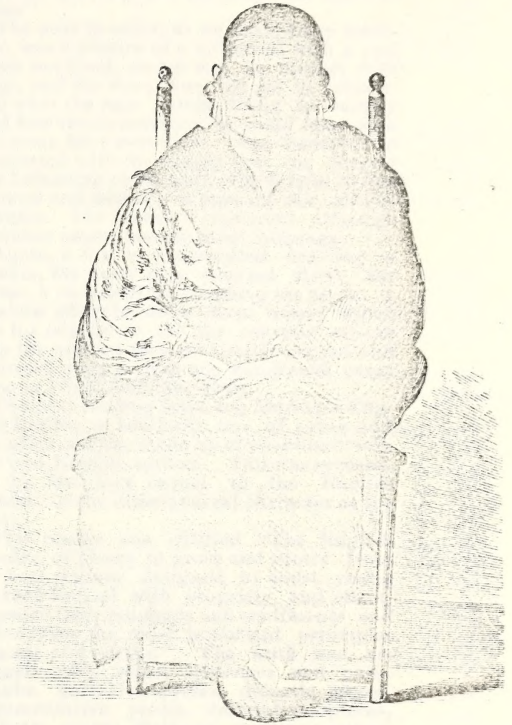
Most of the articles referred to are owned by Gabriel Godfroy, of Peru, Ind., who married a grand-daughter of Frances Slocum, and by whom they were entrusted to the Grand Army of the Republic for their Loan Art Exhibition held August 9, in Wabash, Ind., and in whose elaborate catalogue (kindly sent us by the editor of the *Wabash Courier*), they are duly enumerated.

For the benefit of such of our younger readers as are not familiar with the narrative, a brief sketch of Frances Slocum will be interesting, before passing to the correspondence: A few months after the massacre of Wyoming her father's family was among the fugitives who ventured back into the Wyoming Valley, which had been desolated with fire and tomahawk. On November 2, 1778, a band of Delaware Indians stole Frances Slocum, then a five-year-old child, as also two other children, and hurried away from the settlement. The next month the father of Frances and his aged father-in-law, William Tripp, were cruelly killed and scalped. No tidings came of little Frances for 50 years, when by a most remarkable chain of circumstances it was discovered that she was living at Logansport, Indiana, with the Miami Indians, where she was found by her brothers and sisters in 1837. The interview was a most touching one, the identification was complete, and every entreaty was made to have the lost sister return to her home in Wyoming Valley, but all to no purpose, she preferred to live and die among the children of the forest. Two life-size portraits of her were painted by George Winters, one of which is now in the possession of Mrs. Abi Slocum Butler, her niece, who is living in Wilkes-Barre, and the other in the possession of

George Slocum Bennett, whose great-aunt she was.

Following is the interesting letter received from Mr. George C. Bacon, editor of the *Wabash Plain Dealer*:

"WABASH, IND., Sept. 9, 1886. — EDITOR RECORD: Your inquiry and copy of the RECORD at hand, concerning the relics of Frances Slocum, the "White Captive," or "Mah-co-nes-quah," as she was known among the Indians here. In reply will say that it is incorrect to say that these relics were "unearthed," because they have been kept carefully ever since her death by the head man of the tribe, Gabriel Godfroy.



FRANCES SLOCUM (from *Pearce's Annals*).

Besides the relics mentioned in your paper, the chief has in his possession the wardrobe of "Mah-co-nes-quah," consisting of a dress and shirt of mail, both heavily trimmed with silver ornaments, two shawls, a very fine red silk scarf, a magnificent brown broadcloth blanket ornamented with embroidery, and a





pair of scarlet flannel leggings of exquisite workmanship and ornamentation. All these are in excellent state of preservation. The article in the *Plain Dealer* I send you to-day states that the remains of Frances Slocum are buried in Miami County, which is a mistake—they lie in the tribal burying ground of her old home one mile west of "Deaf-man's village," on the banks of the Missinnewa River in Wabash County, about twelve miles from this city. I had the good fortune to see Peter Bundy in this city to-day—an Indian who married one of Frances Slocum's daughters,—and still lives on the home place, and learned the above fact from him. Also that she has two daughters buried at the same place; that Frances Slocum married Deaf Man, ("She-pah-ca-nah") war chief of the Osage village, and by him had four children, "Ke-ke-na-kush-wah," who married Capt. John B. Brouillette: "O-zah wah-shing-quah" whose first husband was Tab-co-na. Afterward she married Wah-pah-pe-tah (Peter Bundy). I have no record of her sons. There are yet living many people who knew Frances Slocum, who died in March, 1847. Her oldest daughter died in the same year, as did also her husband, Capt. Brouillette; the younger wife of Bundy, died in 1877. Peter Bundy is a most excellent old Christian gentleman and has a son who is a preacher in the M. P. Church."

GEO. C. BACON.

The catalogue referred to has among the Indian relics the "wardrobe of Frances Slocum, the white captive. Loaned by Gabriel Godfroy, Peru, Ind.: Blanket, three shawls, two ornamented shirts, pair of leggings, silver cross worn by Frances Slocum at the time of her death," besides medals presented by Presidents Washington and Jackson to chiefs of Miami Indians.

#### TEXT BOOKS OF THE OLD ACADEMY.

One of the Pupils Writes About Them  
and the Code of Morals Taught Therein  
—Reminiscences Which Will Call Up  
Boyhood Days of Half a Century Ago.

EDITOR RECORD: It would be interesting to compare the advance in the curriculum of study in our schools. In the Old Academy, primary department, about 1830, we had the so-called John Rogers primer, succeeded by Webster's spelling book. The latter contained spelling and reading. Most of the articles for reading were accompanied with wood cuts of the rudest description, some of which were reproduced a few years since in *Harper's Magazine*, to show the great improvements in engraving, particularly on wood. We well remember the stories accompanying those cuts, each of which contained a moral. The first one was a picture of a small farm house,

and an apple tree in which could be seen a youngster, while at the foot of the tree was a man in the act of throwing at the boy. The boy being represented about as large as the tree, and the man also out of all proportion with his surroundings. The story was something like this: "An old man found a rude boy up one of his apple trees, stealing apples, and desired him to come down. The young sauce-box told him plainly he would not. The old man then threw turf and grass at him, which only made the youngster laugh at him, whereupon the old man replied: 'As kind words and turf do not succeed, I will try what virtue there is in stones,' which soon made the young rascal hasten down from the tree and beg the old man's pardon. Moral—When mild measures do not succeed we must use harsher ones."

The next in order, as we recall from memory, was a picture of a milkmaid with a pail upon her head, on her way to market with eggs, and the story goes, she got to reasoning what the eggs would bring in money and how much material she could buy with the same for a new dress. She becomes so engrossed with the subject that she forgets the balancing of the pail, which falls to the ground and destroys at once all her anticipations. The moral is apparent although I cannot reproduce the exact language.

Again, a fox is represented crossing a stream, his head only exposed above the water, a swarm of flies sucking his blood. A swallow offers to drive them away, which the fox objects to for the sensible reason that the present flies are already gorged and if driven away a fresh one would suck every drop of blood from his veins.

The next reading book was Murray's English Reader, in two parts, one of prose and the other poetry, made up of selections from the best English authors. This was succeeded by Murray's sequel to the English Reader, of the same general character as the first.

This reader was entitled "The English Reader, or pieces in prose and poetry from the best writers: designed to assist young persons to read with propriety and effect, improve their language and sentiments and to inculcate the most important principles of piety and virtue." The work was arranged with select sentences and paragraphs, narrative pieces, didactic pieces, argumentative pieces, descriptive pieces, pathetic pieces, dialogues, public speeches, promiscuous pieces. The extracts were from the Bible, Milton, Blair, Hume, Johnson, Aikin, Addison, Gregory, Goldsmith, Horne, Dr. Young, Archbishop Fenelon, Lord Lyttleton, Cicero, &c., &c., all of a religious or moral tendency. The poetry was from Pope, Thomson, Cunningham, Young, Gray,





Cowper, Addison, Milton, and others. A boy would not be likely to discover or appreciate the beauty of the sentiment or the language, but to the inquisitive scholars, nothing can now be found in any of our schools to compare with it.

The grammars then in use were Kirkham's and Murray's, both of which were as dry as dust to the student, the latter being filled with notes in fine print, which made it particularly obnoxious, and it is very doubtful if the principles underlying the structure of our language were ever extracted by these helps; Mitchell's Geography and Atlas, Hale's History of the United States and Blake's Philosophy.

These were the books in the English department of the upper and lower rooms. The teacher in the lower room was named Chamberlain, and he was a good and faithful teacher, too. He boarded at Morgan's tavern, on the site of E. P. Darling's residence, on River Street. He afterwards traveled through this country introducing Cobb's Spelling Book, which succeeded Webster's. He moved west and carried on a book store. Israel Dickinson, who taught in the upper school where young men were prepared for college, and who paid this place a visit last fall, said he was still living in the same town with himself. If this hasty reminiscence will be the means of calling out others of the alumni of the Old Academy it would be very pleasing to the

WRITER.

#### Meaning of Susquehanna.

The word Susquehanna having been a puzzle to etymologists from the days of Heckewelder to the present, it is worthy to note that Prof. A. L. Guss, of Washington City, has carefully analyzed the name and determined its signification to the satisfaction of himself, at least. He says it is of Tockwock origin, and signifies the Brook-stream, or the Spring-water-stream. The earliest use of it is found in the works of Captain John Smith of Pocahontas fame.

#### Sheep Raising in this Region.

The following item is taken from a Wilkes-Barre paper of 1835:

"We understand our enterprising fellow citizen, Dr. Bedford, of Abington, is beginning to direct his attention to the subject of raising sheep in this county. As soon as the Doctor makes the experiment we hope he will give the public the result of his experience."

It is a pleasure to know that Dr. Bedford still lives in Abington, honored in his later years as in early life, and in the enjoyment of health and competence. Has his experience in sheep raising been recorded?

#### An Old War Song.

In March last the Elmira *Telegram* printed a poem which was furnished to it by Corporal O'Brien of the 143d Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers, and which was explained as follows: The song was written by Amos Sisty on the departure for the Mexican War, in 1846, of the 'Wyoming Artillerists,' under command of Captain E. L. Dana. The ode was rendered at a meeting held on the occasion in the old Methodist Church on Public Square in Wilkes-Barre, which was addressed by Dr. Thos. W. Miner.

The poem having been copied into the Wilkes-Barre *Leader*, Lieut.-Col. E. B. Beaumont, of the 4th U. S. Cavalry, addressed a note to that paper from Fort Bowie, Arizona, in which he stated that the poem was written by his father, the late Hon. Andrew Beaumont; that it was published in a Washington paper, Feb. 22, 1847, and copied from the Annapolis *Democratic Herald*. The poem was as follows:

AIR—"The Star Spangled Banner."

Oh say, did you hear the loud clarion of war  
Send its summoning blast o'er our hills and  
our valley? [spear,  
And Mars, with his helmet, his buckler and  
Call our youth round "The Star Spangled  
Banner" to rally?

"Mid these stirring alarms,

See our sons rush to arms—

While the passion for glory each gallant  
heart warms: [boast,

And the sons of Wyoming shall hence be our  
Be the theme of our song and the soul of our  
toast.

Behold where the fane of religion ascends,

Those youth clad in arms round the altar  
of freedom,

And pledge, in the presence of kindred and  
friends.

Their blood and their lives, if their country  
should need them,

Then the pæan rose high,

And the shout rent the sky,

While the patriot tear stole from each gener-  
ous eye: [boast,

And the sons of Wyoming shall e'er be our  
Be the theme of our song and the soul of our  
toast. [clare

And ne'er shall the page of our history de-  
That the youth of Wyoming are wanting in  
duty;

Beloved as companions—undaunted in war,  
And the smiles of the fair are their "booty  
and beauty."

For the same ardor fires,

The same spirit inspires,

That guided in battle their patriot sires;

And the sons of Wyoming shall long be our  
toast,

Be the theme of our song and the soul of our  
toast.





## SAM. WRIGHT.

Reminiscence of a Famous Shopkeeper of 50 Years Ago in Wilkes-Barre—A Piece of Original Poetry Advertised by Him.

MR. RECORD: You want original poetry of Wyoming. Here is a sample of 50 years ago.

What! You don't want it?

Read the prologue.

All Hail! Lovers of high flavored and well dressed Oysters (both fried and stewed) are requested to call at my old stand on the West Side of the Public Square, or at my new Oyster Establishment in the cellar of Major O. Porter's Hotel on River Street, where they will find Oysters as well as other refreshments served up at short notice.

SAMUEL WRIGHT.

Who was Sam Wright?

What a question. As if everybody didn't know the only man who could fry and stew oysters. A man of portly presence and fixed shade of color, who never sold lager beer; the inventor, or discoverer of the Imperial Beverage, (a lost art) under whose ministrations Constitutional Prohibition was neither needed nor thought of.

No. I am no Rip Van Winkle; but this village like that of "Falling Waters" is much changed. What is fame or reputation if nobody remembers Sam Wright?

In a few years, perhaps, there will be people asking "Who was Tommy Robinson," whose small beer was equal to the Imperial Beverage.

Ask Dr. Ingham, Capt. Dennis or Gen. Dana, not that either can be expected to remember so far back as half a century, but the story must have been still fresh in their early youth: how one training day the courteous inventor of the "Imperial" wrote: "The compliments of Samuel Wright to Capt. H. B. Wright requesting the pleasure of his Company at his Old Stand on West Side of the Public Square," and how the tired and thirsty commander about to dismiss his company, construed the invitation in a most liberal sense and astonished the proprietor by ordering his line of march in full array to the place of entertainment.

Compare the "menu" at the "Old Stand" with that of Kennedy or of Lohmann today:

Samuel Wright, by day and by night,

Will serve up fine OYSTERS, you know.

I have them on hand, and more at command.

On the Square and at Porter's below.

If you call for a heart, or even a tart,

I'll furnish them both if you please.

Mince pies I have too, or plum pudding in lieu,

As well as dried beef and good cheese.

Wilkes-Barre, Nov. 26, 1834.

Can you reject this?

O.

NIAGARA FALLS, N. Y., Sept. 23, 1886.—  
EDITOR RECORD: I read in your paper this week asking, who is Sam Wright? I remember him well as a popular and favor-

ite proprietor of a restaurant, in one of low old buildings on the west side of Public Square, more than 50 years ago. Every body large and small, old and young knew Sam, and he was respected by all who knew him. He was a member of the Methodist Church and a devoted christian man. Many a time have I heard his sonorous voice raised in devout prayer at their meetings and I remember his fondness for joining in the singing, which as a boy amused me; as his voice was a good imitation of the Scotch bag pipe; and can imagine I hear it now ringing in my head. Sam was a character and was never *boycolled* on account of his sable color. I have a vivid recollection of getting the most delicious peach pie and soft ginger cake at Sam's saloon that any boy ever got at any other. So much for my memory of Sam Wright. S. PETTEBONE.

## A Liar of the Last Century.

The *Bloomsburg Republican* of Sept 16 has discovered in an old newspaper a letter, from which it would appear that our Pennsylvania climate and country was not very attractive to the red-coated hirelings who came over to assist in crushing the rebel patriots of the American colonies. The letter is dated January 18, 1778, and was written by a Hessian officer in the British Army. Of the general character of the country he writes:

"If the Honorable Count Penn should surrender to me the whole country, on condition that I should live here during my life, I should scarcely accept it. Among one hundred persons, not merely in Philadelphia, but also throughout the whole neighborhood, not one has a healthy color, the cause of which is the unhealthy air and bad water." This is caused, he says, "by the woods, morasses and mountains, which partly confine the air, and partly poison it, making the country unhealthy. Nothing is more common here," he continues, "than a fever once a year, then eruptions, itch, etc." This dire picture reaches a climax later on where he declares: "Nowhere have I seen so many mad people as here. . . . Frequently the people are cured, but almost all have a quiet madness, a derangement of mind which proceeds from sluggish, not active blood. One cause is the food. . . . The milk is not half so rich, the bread gives little nourishment."

In regard to climatic influences, this voracious chronicler writes. "The thunder storms in summer and the damp reeking air in spring and autumn are unendurable. In summer mists fall and wet everything, and then in the afternoon there is a thunder storm. In winter when the trees are frosted in the morning, it rains in the afternoon."





It is on the subject of snakes, however, that this writer's descriptive ability shines with the clearest luster. He prefaces his story with the mild statement that "There is no scarcity of snakes. The great black snake has been found near the Schuylkill lately, quite near our camp. A countryman cutting wood was chased by one recently. . . . There is nothing, however, more terrible than the big rattle snake, which is from twelve to sixteen feet long and kills by a glance. A countryman in my quarters lost a relative in this way some years ago. He had gone hunting, and seeing a bear stand still, aimed at and shot it; scarcely had he reached the bear, when he was obliged to stand motionless, remained thus awhile, fell and died. All this was caused by a rattle-snake, which was perched in a high tree."

#### Centennial of Luzerne County.

These days in which we live are prolific with centennial observances, but it would be churlish to say that there are too many of them. They serve a good purpose and though—in the absence of circus and mountebank features—comparatively few people attend the gatherings, yet the interest in them is great and there will be thousands of people who will read with eager enjoyment the reports in the local papers of Saturday's observance, and when the detailed proceedings are published—as they will be—by the Historical Society the volume will be stored away as a valuable contribution to our fund of local history. Most people want to take their dose of historical research *ad libitum*, whenever, however, and wherever wanted—without expending the energy necessary upon attendance at a public meeting. Very much on the principle that some people nowadays have a telephone wire running to the pulpit of their favorite preacher, and thus hear his sermons without having to go to church.

But seriously, an event such as was celebrated on Saturday is no mean one and there are brought together a vast deal of historical data that might otherwise be lost. It is not very electrifying work for the man of antiquarian tastes to rummage among the "dead and useless past," and he needs some incentive like a centennial celebration to drive him to its performance. Probably nearly every one of the papers was written under just such pressure—an appointment to write on a certain topic—a lack of time in which to do it and consequently a rush in the few remaining hours to complete the task assigned. But when done the work remains,—it may be of great value to coming generations, it may be of very little or no value.

What mighty changes have come over this county in the brief space of a century! Made up originally of the territory now

composed in Luzerne, Lackawanna, Susquehanna, Bradford and Wyoming Counties, it contained in 1786 about 2,300 taxables—perhaps 15,000 inhabitants. In one hundred years this number has swollen to 200 times this amount, or according to the census of 1880, 337,827 souls. Of these, present Luzerne claims almost one-half, making it one of the most densely populated, the most wealthy, the most thriving communities in the United States.

No name more worthy than that of the Chevalier de la Luzerne, could have been bestowed upon a county which was to become great, wealthy and populous. De la Luzerne was an officer in the French army, serving in the Seven Years' War. Abandoning arms for affairs of state, he was appointed Minister from the Court of France to the United States in 1778. He made his home in America for five years and became an idol of the people. In 1780, when our army had scarcely a dollar in its coffers and when our Government Treasury was depleted to the last degree, Luzerne raised money on his own responsibility to tide over the crisis which threatened the struggling colonists with destruction. Afterwards he was sent by his home Government to the Court of St. James, and in 1789, when the Federal Government was organized, Jefferson, then Secretary of the State, by order of President Washington addressed a letter to the Chevalier de la Luzerne, acknowledging his pre-eminent services and the appreciation of them by the American people. The naming of a county in Pennsylvania in his honor elicited from him a letter breathing a spirit of love for the Nation, whose unpromising fortunes he had espoused in the hour of adversity and which he had lived to see crowned with victory. We do well, even a hundred later, to reverence his memory, and the memory of all the brave pioneers in the work of laying the foundations of this Republic and of this county. If we of to-day build as well as they what fancy can picture nation and county a century hence!

The poems of "Stella of Lackawanna," (Mrs. Harriet Gertrude Watres, of Scranton, deceased,) are in the hands of a large publishing house in Boston, and will be issued in book form in the course of two or three months. The volume will be embellished with a splendid steel portrait of the gifted authoress, and the work will without doubt command a large sale. State Senator L. A. Watres is a son of the lamented dead, and Dr. H. Hollister, the veteran historian of Lackawanna County, is a brother.

In 1815 where Scranton proper now stands was a wilderness.





## LUZERNE COUNTY POSTOFFICES.

One Hundred and Four of them—Townships in which Located—A List that is Useful for Reference.

Probably not everybody is aware that Luzerne County has 104 postoffices, yet such is the fact. Many of the names will be new to the general reader and not one person in a hundred can tell offhand in what part of the county the several offices are located.

In a few instances a borough has a different postoffice name. Laurel Run Borough's postoffice is Oliver's Mills. The postoffice in Pleasant Valley Borough could not be so named as there was already a Pleasant Valley in Bucks County. Consequently Pleasant Valley's postoffice is Avoca (recently called Marr). There is a Pleasant Hill in Ross Township but it could not be so called as there is such an office in Lawrence County. It is therefore named Sweet Valley.

POST OFFICE.	TOWNSHIP.
Alden.....	Newport
*Ashley.....	Hanover
Askam.....	Hanover
Avoca.....	Marcy
Beach Haven.....	Salem
Bear Creek.....	Bear Creek
Belbend.....	Salem
Black Ridge.....	Sugarloaf
Bloomingsdale.....	Ross
Briggsville.....	Nescopeck
Cambria.....	Huntington
Carverton.....	Kingston
Cease's Mills.....	Jackson
Conyngham.....	Sugarloaf
Dallas.....	Dallas
Dorrance.....	Dorrance
*Drifton.....	Hazle
Drum's.....	Butler
Duryea.....	Marcy
Ebervale.....	Hazle
Eckley.....	Foster
Exeter.....	Exeter
Fades Creek.....	Lake
Fairmount Springs.....	Fairmount
Forty Fort.....	Kingston
*Freeland.....	Foster
Glen Summit.....	Wright
Gowen.....	Black Creek
Grand Tunnel.....	Plymouth
Gregory.....	Hunlock
Harling.....	Exeter
Harleigh.....	Hazle
Harveyville.....	Huntington
Hazle Brook.....	Foster
*Hazleton.....	Hazle
Hobbie.....	Hollenback
Hunlock Creek.....	Hunlock
Huntington Mills.....	Huntington
Huntsville.....	Jackson
Inkerman.....	Jenkins
Jeansville.....	Hazle
Jeddo.....	Hazle
*Kingston.....	Kingston
Ketcham.....	Franklin
Kunkle.....	Dallas
Kyttle.....	Fairmount
Lake, (at Harvey's Lake).....	Lehman
Larksville, (formerly Blindtown).....	Plymouth

POST OFFICE.	TOWNSHIP.
Lehman.....	Lehman
Loyalville.....	Lake
Luzerne, (formerly Mill Hollow).....	Kingston
Milnesville.....	Hazle
Miner's Mills.....	Plains
Moosehead.....	Denison
Mountain Grove.....	Black Creek
Mountain Top.....	Wright
Muldenburg.....	Union
*Nanticoke.....	Hanover
Nescopeck.....	Nescopeck
New Columbus.....	Huntington
Oliver's Mills, (Laurel Run Borough).....	Wilkes-Barre
Orange.....	Franklin
Outlet.....	Lake
*Parsons.....	Plains
Peely, (Warrior Run).....	Hanover
Pike's Creek.....	Lehman
*Pittston.....	Pittston
*Plains.....	Plains
Plainsville, (L. V. RR. Station).....	Plains
*Plymouth.....	Plymouth
Port Blanchard.....	Jenkins
Red Rock.....	Fairmount
Register.....	Huntington
Reyburn.....	Union
Riffenhouse.....	Fairmount
Roaring Brook.....	Hunlock
Rock Glen.....	Black Creek
Ruggles.....	Lake
Sandy Run.....	Foster
*Shick-hinny.....	Salem and Union
Silkworth.....	Lehman
Slocum.....	Slocum
Stockton.....	Hazle
St. John's.....	Butler
Stoddartsville.....	Buck
Sugarloaf.....	Butler
Sugar Notch.....	Sugar Notch
Sweet Valley.....	Ross
Seybertsville.....	Sugarloaf
Town Hill.....	Huntington
Town Line.....	Union
Trucksville.....	Kingston
Upper Lehigh.....	Foster
Wanamie.....	Newport
Wapwallopen.....	Conyngham
Waterton.....	Huntington
West Nanticoke.....	Plymouth
*Wilkes-Barre.....	Wilkes-Barre
White Haven.....	Foster
Wyoming.....	Kingston
Yates, (Yatesville).....	Jenkins
Zehner.....	Foster

Offices with an asterisk, (\*), are money-order offices.

## A Large Eagle Shot.

[Pittston Gazette.]

A splendid specimen of the bald eagle was shot yesterday in the vicinity of Ransom by Fred Hoffner, in company with Frank and Henry G. Weeks, who were out for a day's tramp through the country. The eagle dropped with a broken wing and a bullet through its body. The bird measured six feet and eight inches across the wings and three feet from beak to tail.

In 1810 the Luzerne County Agricultural Society was first organized.





### The Supposed Meteorite.

Appended is the extracted description of a supposed meteorite in the collection of the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society, from a paper recently read before the Society by Dr. Charles F. Ingham.

This mass of mineral was left in charge of this society by Mr. J. Crockett, of Ross Township, Luzerne County, where he obtained it in ploughing on his farm in a locality which seemed to be that on which a luminous body or meteorite had fallen. He is therefore of the belief that this is that body. My investigations lead me to an opposite opinion, for the following reasons:

First, That the external surface does not correspond with the descriptions universally given of meteorites. M. Daubree, member of the Institute of Mines and Inspector General of the mines of France, in an article on the synthetic experiments relative to meteorites, says, "What is first remarked on examining meteoric stones, is a black crust which covers the whole surface; this crust is in general of a dull appearance, but in some aluminous and particularly fusible meteorites it is of a glittering aspect, so as to resemble a varnish. Its thickness is less than one millimetre (one-twenty-fifth of an inch), and it is plainly owing to a superficial fusion which the stone has undergone for a short time, being the result of incandescence produced by friction through the atmosphere." And this we find in a specimen belonging to this society while the Ross Township stone is totally without it and has no other indication of its having been heated.

Secondly, and of great import, I find the specific gravity of the Ross Township specimen only 2.618, whereas the specific gravity of meteorites, as reported, ranges from 3.200 to 7.020, an average being 5.24. The Polish specimen has a gravity of 3.663, and it is strongly attractable by the magnet; yet it has no magnetic power, and hence no polarity inherent. The Ross Township specimen gives no evidence whatever of magnetic influence, although my tests were applied to an external flake, which should have had the greatest energy of the whole mass. And this is in accord with my analysis of the mineral by which I get but the faintest evidence of the presence of iron, and not a trace of nickel. I found the mass made up of silica, alumina, lime, magnesia, potassa and, as above stated, a faint trace of iron, as also some bismuth.

In these elements, taken in connection with the specific gravity 2.663, we have a close approximation to the mineral Anorthite, its specific gravity being 2.730. Anorthite belongs to the section of feldspathic compounds. Now, if the mass in question is not a meteorite, and did not

reach its place of rest by a traverse through the air, the question follows, where did it come from? The surface-rocks of Luzerne County are not of the feldspathic class, nor do we find them in force until we approach the St. Lawrence River and the Great Lakes. This would seem to be making out a very remote point of origin for the specimen, involving a very long overland journey to reach its location in the mountains of Pennsylvania. But that the great proportion of the drift found throughout this county came from equally remote sources, we have the strongest lithologic evidence; for among the stones of the gravel we find a very large amount of the Potsdam sandstone, this stone being at the base of the lower silurian formation, and being the beginning of the paleozoic series, or those bearing the fossil evidence of life on earth. The nearest point to us, northward, at which this sandstone has a surface spread, is in St. Lawrence and Franklin Counties, the northeast corner of the State of New York; where, in the Adirondack mountains, it appears prominently. I therefore assign to the force that brought the Potsdam sandstone to us, the no more difficult task, that of having brought the specimen to Ross Township.

### An Historic Log Chapel.

The *Media American* recently contained an article by Philip Lennon on "The Old Log Chapel at Nesbaming in Bucks County." It was the pioneer seminary for aspirants to the Presbyterian ministry a century and a half ago. It was six miles south of Doylestown, twenty miles out of Philadelphia. When in America in 1739 the celebrated evangelist, Whitfield, preached here to 3000 people. The deed for the ground, dated 1728, was given by James Logan, to his cousin, Rev. William Tennent, an Irish emigrant, who shortly after his arrival renounced his allegiance to the Church of England and joined the Philadelphia Presbytery. The gift consisted of fifty acres of land and the part of it on which the college stood is said to have been the Indian burying ground. The log college, 20 feet by 30 feet square, was for years the only institute south of New England where young men could be prepared for the ministry.

The Log College flourished under Mr. Tennent for twenty years, when its place was eminently supplied by kindred institutions thereabouts. From its walls came many noted preachers of Scotch-Irish descent. Four of his own sons were ministers, one of whom, Gilbert Tennant, preached eloquent sermons to stir up the people during the French and Indian War. A cartload of these sermons were very opportunely discovered in an old lumber room of Dr. Franklin's when the American patriots were





hunting for paper to make cartridges after the British evacuated Philadelphia, in June 1778. The sermons were utilized as cases for cartridges, and told effectively afterwards on the retreating British in the battle of Monmouth.

The Rev. Charles Beatty, an Irish Presbyterian, who was chaplain with Dr. Franklin in the army on the Lehigh, in 1756, was educated here. He was an emigrant with a good classical education, but compelled to make a living by peddling. Halting one day at Log College, he accosted the professor familiarly in classical Latin. After some conversation in which the peddler evidenced religious zeal, Mr. Tennent said, "Go and sell the contents of your pack and return immediately and study with me. It will be a sin to continue a peddler, when you can be so much more useful in another profession." Beatty became an eminent preacher. He was present at the coronation of George III.

While chaplain with Dr. Franklin's army on the Lehigh, during the French and Indian War, an incident is related worthy of record. The soldiers were allowed a gill of rum every day in addition to their regular stipulation, one-half being dealt out in the morning and the other in the evening. On Dr. Beatty's complaining to Dr. Franklin, of the soldiers not being punctual in attending service, the latter suggested, "It is, perhaps, below the dignity of your profession to act as a steward of the rum, but if you were to distribute it out only just after prayers, you would have them all about you." Mr. Beatty profited by the advice and in future had no reason to complain of non-attendance. A few hands measured out the liquor after prayers regularly. He died at Barbadoes, whither he had gone to collect money for the New Jersey College in 1771.

Scarcely a vestige of those old college times now remains about there—save a fire crane, said to have been used by Mr. Tennent in his own house, and a part of the old wall, a foot and a half thick, in the end of a kitchen attached to an old house there. Some old coins bearing the date 1710 were discovered there years ago. Not a vestige remains of the temple whose roof echoed often the loud, earnest preachings of truth.

#### Another Sullivan Expedition Journal.

We have received from Mr. Justin Winsor, corresponding secretary of the Massachusetts Historical Society, a valuable pamphlet of 45 pages, of which the following is the title page inscription:

Sullivan's Expedition Against the Indians of New York, 1779. A Letter from Andrew McFarland Davis to Justin Winsor, corresponding secretary of the Massachusetts Historical Society. With the Journal of William

McKendry. Cambridge: John Wilson and Son. 1886. Pp. 45.

Mr. Davis' letter gives a list of 32 published and unpublished diaries, journals or narratives of the Sullivan expedition, though the one in the present pamphlet has never before been published. It is stated that the journal of George Grant has been printed in the *Wyoming* (Wilkes-Barre) *Republican*. Adam Hubley's journal was published in the appendix to Miner's "History of Wyoming." The diary of John Jenkins, a lieutenant in Capt. Spalding's Independent Wyoming Company, and guide to the expedition, is in the possession of Hon. Steuben Jenkins, of Wyoming.

The writer of this particular journal, William McKendry, was a lieutenant in a Massachusetts regiment in active service during the years 1777-1780. The original journal is now owned by Mr. William Henry McKendry, of Ponkapoag, Mass., of the Harvard class of 1882.

The writer was at Cherry Valley at the time of the massacre. He was with Clinton's column in Sullivan's expedition. He contributes some valuable and interesting information, while many of the brief notes of engagements with the Indians are as fascinating as fiction. Here is a thrilling entry dated November 11, made at Cherry Valley: "Alarm at 11 o'clock. Mr. Hammell coming from the Beaver Dam was fired upon by ye Indians and was wounded. Being on horse he escaped to the fort half a mile distant, and alarmed Col. Alden. Immediately came on 442 Indians from the Five Nations, 200 Tories, under command of one Col. Butler and Capt. Brant; attacked headquarters. Killed Col. Alden and 14 men. Took Col. Stacy prisoner, also Lieut. Col. Holden and 14 men. Killed of ye inhabitants, 30 persons; took 34 inhabitants prisoners. Burnt 20 houses, 25 barns, 2 mills. N. B. A rainy day. Nov. 12. Sent out and fetched in Col. Alden and buried him under arms with firing three volleys over his grave. Brant came with 100 Indians to attack fort ye second time, but receiving two or three shots from the cannon gave back. Left ye fort at 3 pm. and brought in a No. of dead bodies. Nov. 13. Brought in Hugh Mitchell's wife and four children, all scalpt, with a No. of other dead bodies."

The entries relative to the passing of the victorious army through Wyoming on its return, in October, 1779, is interesting, but not given with as much detail as could be desired.

On Oct. 4 the army, after a short but thorough campaign of 36 days had left Fort Sullivan (Tioga) on its return to Easton, the soldiers taking the precaution to destroy the fort or stockade before evacuating it. The entries then go on as follows:





Oct. 4th. This morning the Army Marched. and left Fort Sullivan at 9 O Clock for Wyoming—came over scrub land this day—Passed, a defile on the brink of the river where a narrow path on the steep side of a large mountain about 200 feet perpendicular which made it very dangerous to pass; and was a solid rock three horses with their loads fell off and dashed to pieces in the River—Proceeded. on and encampment on the point of the river—Some rain this day and very hard this night—Came 25 miles this day—Part of the troops came in the boats.

October 5th. This morning 11 O Clock the troops all embarked on board the boats, excepting a No. to drive the Cattle, and take down the pack-horses. Proceeded down the river and encampment 7 miles below Wylucee the boats came on very well, this day passed some bad rapids—This river on the sides is very mountainy and opposite on the other side some small flats—Some of these mountains 300 feet perpendicular—Came 21 miles this day.

October 6th. This morning the troops moved on at 6 O Clock proceeded down this river and encampment west side of the same on a piece of land that was cleared by girdling the trees and was covered with English grass—Came 30 Miles.

October 7th. This morning the Army moved on and arrived at Wyoming 12 O' Clock A. M. and encampment on a pine plain—the troops drew half a pint of Whiskey each—This river is very mountainy, on the sides of it and opposite these mountains on the other side, some small flats which are very rich and good land, those flats from Tioga to Wyoming have all been improved and cleared by girdling, but the houses are all burnt by the Indians—This Wyoming is pleasantly situated on both sides of the river and the land near the same very good—Came 15 miles, making in the whole 91 miles from Tioga to this place by water.

October 10th (Sunday) The Army marched and left the ground 3 O'clock P. M. for Easton—Came over a large mountain very rocky and some muddy sloughs. Arrived at Bullocks Farm at a long meadow 11 O'clock at night where the troops encampment—Came 7 miles this day.

October 15th. Arrived at Easton 1 O'clock P. M.

In 1786 the great "Pumpkin Flood" inundated the entire Valley and did much damage.

In 1820 the population of the county was 20,027.

In 1820 the coal trade increased rapidly, and the Baltimore Coal Company was organized.

In 1829 the first county bank, the "Wyoming Bank," at Wilkes-Barre, commenced business.

#### WHEN BERWICK WAS FOUNDED.

Evidence Tending to Show That the Recent Centennial Was a Year Ahead of Time.

EDITOR RECORD: There having been exhibited lately some diversity of opinion as to the time of the settlement of the Town of Berwick, I have concluded to add to the confusion already existing upon the subject, by giving what was said about it upwards of eighty years ago.

Thomas Cooper, one of the Pennsylvania Commissioners, under the act of 1799, known as the "Compromising Law," in the performance of his duties wrote under date:

"NORTHUMBERLAND, Jan. 18, 1803.—A part of the Town of Berwick stands on a tract of land taken up under Pennsylvania by Evan Owen, who laid out that town, and who, I understand, is now at Lancaster making his complaints on this subject, and who, to my knowledge, most egregiously exaggerates the importance of the case as will soon be perceived. A part of this tract and of the town of Berwick is included in the Town of Salem. General Steele, Mr. Wilson and myself directed Mr. Sambourne, the surveyor, to run out the lines of interference. They can give evidence respecting it. Mr. Sambourne's return to me makes the business quite insignificant, but whether more or less, I had to decide on principles that have no relation to the *quantum* of the dispute. I held this case under advisement on the following ground: It appeared in evidence before me, by the voluntary deposition of Evan Owen himself, that he made his commencement of settlement on the tract of land whereon the Town of Berwick now stands, on the 10th day of May, 1787, the Confirming Law having passed on the 27th day of March preceding. It appeared to me that this Confirming Law was public and legal notice to him of an opposite and older title, then recognized by the Legislature, and that he settled at his peril. He took up the land and settled it, knowing of a precedent title.

THOMAS COOPER."

This letter will be found recorded at large in the office of the Secretary of Internal Affairs at Harrisburg. in volume I, relating to Wyoming lands. p. 152. It would seem to be satisfactory evidence of the time when the Town of Berwick was laid out.

STEPHEN JENKINS.

Wyoming, Sept. 17, 1886.

In 1794 a fatal form of typhus fever raged along the Susquehanna. Whole families fell victims to it.

In 1773 the first marriage in Wilkes-Barre (white) occurred this year in the Denison family, and the first birth followed it.

In 1812 the first church erected and completed in the Public Square, Wilkes-Barre,





### The Old Wilkes-Barre Academy.

EDITOR RECORD: An article in the RECORD recently headed "Text-Books of the Old Academy" was peculiarly interesting to me, a student in Wilkes-Barre fifty years ago. It brought to my mind vividly reminiscences of the olden time, the quaint buildings, the early pedagogues, the somewhat crude books and methods of teaching, and the mischievous scholars, some of whom have since risen to eminence in church and State.

The writer of the article referred to went back to a period less than fifty years ago, as I saw no reference to the old "yellow Academy," which to me and doubtless to others who remember it, is attended with more ancient, and therefore hallowed, associations. At the time I entered it, the old building was in a dilapidated condition through extreme age and bad usage by the scholars—one of whom had made two or three unsuccessful attempts to end its existence by conflagration. The structure was one of four public buildings which then occupied the square, viz: The court house, "fire-proof" (in which the county offices were located) the M. E. Church and the academy. Running through the square at right angles, were Main and Market Streets; on the latter a long gable-end building, with roof supported by pillars, constituted the public market house. All these buildings were of a style of architecture peculiar to the Pennsylvania Dutch towns of that period, and beyond the power of any imagination to describe, though I can see them now clearly in my mind's eye. The schools taught in the academy were excellent for the time, and as I have said, many eminent men were fully prepared for college within its uncouth walls. The names of the teachers, I cannot recall, except the principal, Deacon Sylvester Dana, a graduate of Yale, and a most excellent preceptor. With great kindness of heart and much patience, he was yet very thorough and severe. The discipline of his school was maintained at all hazards, and woe to the scholar who disputed his authority. His mode of punishment was the rawhide, a plentiful supply of which was always kept at Mr. Aufheiser's store on the west side of the square. I remember on one occasion going to the store for one which Mr. Dana used to chastise the late Judge Waller. Among the names of those who were attending the academy are J. Butler Conyngham, Frank Butler, Charles Collins, C. P. Waller, George G. Waller, Sam McCarragher, S. H. Lynch, Tom Smith, Bob Wright, Ed Butler, Charley Chapman, W. L. Conyngham and Jonathan Bulkeley. The latter had an experience at one time with the deacon's rawhide which resulted in the indictment of the teacher. A number of the scholars were summoned as witnesses

before the Grand Jury, and I well remember how awestricken we were as one by one we appeared in the august presence of the jurymen to give our testimony. But the case was settled before it came to trial, and Jonathan ceased to be a member of the school.

According to my recollection the old building was demolished in 1839, and for two or three years the school was kept in a part of the old Morgan Hotel, on River Street. A brick building of more modern pretensions and appointments was erected on the old site, and that gave place with the other buildings on the square to the present court house. C. E. L.

Carbondale, Oct. 15, 1886.

### The Old Hollenback House.

Apropos of the disappearance of the old Hollenback house on Franklin and North-ton Streets, it was thought that a few facts relative to the building and history of the old landmark would be interesting. Thorough inquiry, however, failed to reveal the exact date or the architect or builder of it. Several gentlemen in town who are familiar with local history, agreed that the date of construction was about 1846. At the time it was built it was considered a magnificent mansion, outrivalling any other dwelling in town; and, in fact, the length of time required to tear it down this summer, and its excellent condition, vouch for the skill and conscientiousness of its builder, whoever he was. This was the last home of George M. Hollenback, who was so long identified with local interests.

The most prominent event remembered in connection with the old Hollenback house is the Centennial Tea Party of 1876. On this occasion everyone who had books, letters, or any articles whatever, of interest relating to the early history of the town or valley, were brought to the Hollenback house and they were arranged in rooms by a committee of ladies. Some very interesting, as well as ancient, relics of the long ago in this vicinity were there on exhibition, and everyone attended the tea party, which was as great a success as the other famous one of 1770 in Boston.

The Elmira Advertiser has been publishing a series of historical reminiscences under the title of "Letters of Uncle Jonas Lawrence." The author is John L. Sexton, Esq., of Blossburg, Tioga Co., Pa., who deals with many of the towns and villages on both sides the line between New York and Pennsylvania. The letters have just been issued in book form by the Advertiser.

In 1811 the first nail factory was erected in Wilkes-Barre.





#### A Former Wilkes-Barre Pastor in Town.

A Record man Wednesday had a conversation at the Wyoming Valley Hotel with an agreeable and well-preserved gentleman who some 40 years ago lived in Wilkes-Barre for a few months. His name is Rev. Dr. Charles D. Cooper, and he is rector of the Holy Apostles' Church, Philadelphia. Dr. Cooper has some very interesting reminiscences of Wilkes-Barre, he having spent part of the year 1847 as rector of St. Stephen's. He was preceded by Rev. Dr. Claxton, of holy memory, and succeeded by the late lamented and beloved Rev. George D. Miles. Dr. Cooper gives a very graphic description of Wilkes-Barre, as it was 40 years ago, though he sees now in the bustling city of 35,000 people scarcely a trace of the little tumble-down village which Wilkes-Barre was at that time. He and his good wife came here in 1847 by stage, leaving Philadelphia at 3 a. m., and by easy relays reaching here on the third day. Dr. Cooper was the guest for a time of the late Judge Conyngham's family and he formed many delightful acquaintances, including the elder Judge Woodward's family. While he was most favorably impressed with the people he was not so similarly impressed with the town. It seemed inaccessible to railroads, had no perceptible resources and he saw nothing in the future to encourage a young man and a stranger to cast his lot here. Accordingly he concluded to seek a wider and more promising field and he went to Philadelphia (by stage to Pottsville and thence by rail to the Quaker City.) Dr. Cooper occupies a prominent position in the diocese of Pennsylvania. He is impressed not only by the general progress in Wilkes-Barre but by the remarkable growth of his old parish, he considering St. Stephen's one of the strongest parishes in the diocese of Central Pennsylvania. He never anticipated a time when as now, the rector of St. Stephen's would have an outlying field requiring four assistants. The doctor regrets the absence of Rev. Henry L. Jones at General Convention. He is accompanied by Mrs. Cooper and a lady friend. Dr. Cooper's coming was very quiet but now that his whereabouts have been made known by the Record he will doubtless be called upon this morning by some of the gentlemen whose fathers he knew and who were only boys in 1847. — *W.-B. Record*, Oct. 21.

Rev. U. W. Condit is the author of a history of Easton, which is being printed in parts at 50 cents each. Part 5 is devoted mainly to the Lutheran Church history of the town. A biography of Hon. George Taylor is also given. The illustrations are: St. Paul's Church, St. Peter's Church, the "Pot Rock and Eddy" and a profile of George Taylor.

#### Historical Publications.

*Centenary Memorial of the Erection of the County of Dauphin and the Founding of the City of Harrisburg*, edited by William H. Egle, M. D., 8 vo., p. 347.

This is the title of a volume giving a complete record of the celebration last year, prepared under the auspices of the Dauphin County Historical Society. The volume contains a full account not only of the preliminary meetings and addresses, but complete reports of the imposing ceremonies of that celebration, and of the antiquarian exhibition, which was so successful a feature of the event. The edition is limited to 400 copies at \$2 each. The proceeds of the sale of the book are to go to a fund for the establishment of a public library.

A Philadelphia firm are making arrangements for the publication of a history of Susquehanna County. We hope it is not one of the bogus histories with which so many counties have been cursed and which charge an exorbitant price and fail to give satisfaction after all. Miss Blackman's history of the county is not yet out of print and should be patronized before the people throw their money into the coffers of an outside party. We believe in protection to home industry to the fullest extent. It is announced in the *Montrose Independent* that "a number of leading citizens of the county will assist in the preparation," and the chapter on the medical profession will be written by Dr. Calvin C. Hawley, of Montrose.

We learn from the *Doylestown Intelligencer* that Bucks is to have its history prepared by an Ohio firm. If their experience is anything like that in Luzerne the Bucks County people will wish they had let "patent" histories alone.

The *Magazine of American History* for September is both a surprise and a delight. With the first opening of its beautiful pages one is ushered into an unique portrait gallery, and makes or renews acquaintance with a long line of brilliant public characters. A more entertaining contribution to magazine literature than Mrs. Lamb's "Illustrated Chapter of Beginnings" it would be hard to find. It is the history of an old historic institution important to the whole country, and contains just precisely the information wanted by thousands of intelligent readers in various parts of the land—it is a graphic and historical sketch never before presented so concisely and effectively.

Dr. Egle's *Notes and Queries* in the *Harrisburg Telegraph* for Aug. 14 contains an article on "Pennsylvania Anti-Revolutionary Currency," "Records of Bindagle Church," story of a good Indian of doubtful existence and an account of the Enders Monumental Association.





# The Historical Record

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION

DEVOTED PRINCIPALLY TO

## The Early History of Wyoming Valley

AND CONTIGUOUS TERRITORY

WITH

## NOTES AND QUERIES

BIOGRAPHICAL, ANTIQUARIAN, GENEALOGICAL



EDITED BY F. C. JOHNSON, M. D.

Vol. 1]

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NOVEMBER 1886

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[No. 3

WILKES-BARRE, PA.

Press of The Wilkes-Barre Record

MDCCCLXXXVI





# The Historical Record

*Compiled from the Wilkes-Barre Record*

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THE RECORD,

WILKES-BARRE, PA.

VOL. I.

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# The Historical Record

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## JOSEPH BRANT.

**Unveiling His Monument at Brantford, Canada—New Facts in the Life of the Famous Chief—Denial that he was in the Wyoming Massacre of July 3, 1778.**

The question whether the Mohawk chief, Brant, was at the battle of Wyoming has never yet been answered to the satisfaction of all. Authorities differ, most historians insisting that Brant was not here, others, (prominently Hon. Steuben Jenkins) claiming with equal earnestness to the contrary. As the decades have gone by the effort to relieve Brant's memory from its former odium has never for a moment been relinquished, and it is not surprising that last month when a monument was unveiled in his honor at Brantford, Ontario, it was announced authoritatively that he had no hand in the atrocities at Wyoming. The *Post-Express*, of Rochester, N. Y., under date of Oct. 14, gives an excellent historical sketch of the famous Mohawk chieftain, and we take pleasure in laying it before our readers Mr. E. S. Loop having kindly favored us with a copy of the paper referred to:

I.

BRANTFORD, Ont., Oct. 13.—Your correspondent arrived at this place yesterday and found, as he anticipated, other persons from "The States," drawn here by the same attraction, namely, the unveiling of the monument to Joseph Brant, who was once the most famous man of the Genesee country. The ceremonies began this morning and will last two days. While we are waiting for them let me give you as condensed a sketch as I can of the career of the Indian chieftain whose memory has never received justice at our prejudiced hands.

According to tradition the celebrated Mohawk war-chief Joseph Brant—whose Indian name was Thayendanege—was born in the year 1742, on the banks of the Ohio River, where his people were temporarily sojourning. The home of his family was at the Canajoharie Castle, in the Mohawk Valley, and his mother returned there while Joseph was quite young. There are varying statements regarding his father and the origin of his name; but Stone produces considerable evidence in his "Life of Brant," in relation to the ancestry of his subject, and very justly remarks that "from such a body of testi-

mony, direct and circumstantial, it is hazardous but very little to assert that Joseph Brant was of the noblest descent among his nation." It would appear from evidence presented that Thayendanege's father was a distinguished warrior; sometimes called Aroghyadagha and at others Nickus Brant, who became sachem of the Mohawks on the death of King Hendrick in 1755. Aroghyadagha had three sons in the English army, and his daughter, Mollie, became the Indian wife of Sir William Johnson, then British superintendent of Indian affairs in North America. It is evident that Thayendanege himself possessed some knowledge of his origin through family tradition for he distinctly declared that he "was born of Indian parents," and Marshall says, in his "Denonville Expedition," that while stopping near the present village of Victor, N. Y., about 1797, the noted Mohawk chieftain informed several persons that his grandfather guided the French army under Denonville—that destroyed the Seneca town on Boughton Hill many years before—from Irondequoit Bay to Boughton Hill. Brant also visited the locality where the Senecas ambuscaded Denonville, and pointed out the field of battle; facts then unknown to historians but long afterward confirmed by the researches of O. H. Marshall and the original accounts of Denonville and his officers.

There are no definite accounts of the early youth of Thayendanege, but from all that is known he must have been a lad of uncommon enterprise. When but 13 years of age he joined the Mohawk warriors under Sir William Johnson, and received his baptismal fire at the battle of Lake George, where the brave King Hendrick was killed. This was during the old French and Indian war of 1754-1764, which was the result of a struggle between France and England to obtain and retain possession and control of the water-sheds and water-routes of the interior of America from the mouth of the St. Lawrence to the Gulf of Mexico. At the time hostilities commenced, the French occupied stations on Niagara River, along French Creek and Allegany River, between Fort Presque Isle on Lake Erie and the Ohio; to the great disquietude of the Six Nations whose northern and western borders were constantly in dan-





ger of incursions by the French and their Indian allies. The Senecas constituted the great northwestern barrier of the Iroquois confederacy, and Sodus, Irondequoit, Genesee River, Braddocks' Bay, Niagara, Buffalo, Presque Isle, and some minor ports were open doors requiring the constant presence of vigilant sentinels; while the site of Rochester was noted as the location of the two fords where many trails converged, and where all parties passing in this vicinity crossed the Genesee. During the continuance of the wars Indian scouts and war parties were constantly moving through the great wilderness from Lake Champlain to Niagara and the Ohio, and the trails of the Genesee were often warm with the pressure of moccasined feet.

There is reason to believe that members of Nickus Brant's family were familiar with the Genesee trails, and Stone gives the following excerpt from the private journal of Sir Wm. Johnson: "1757, Nov. 4. Canadiorha, alias Nickus Brant's son, who was in quest after DeConague as far as Oneida, came here (Fort Johnson) and said he inquired what news was stirring among the Oneidas. One of the sachems told him . . . about the French intending to stop the powder from the Six Nations—building a fort near Chennessio—etc., that it made a great noise among the nations and gave them uneasiness; wherefore, they were assembled often at Chennessio and keeping great councils among themselves how to act in this affair of last moment, etc." The name of Brant is inseparably connected with the aboriginal history of the Genesee country; and, though the records of his presence here are meagre, we know that from infancy to old age Thayendanege was often on the foot and canoe trails of the Genesee valley. Peck's history of Rochester, page 68, says: "July 1st, 1759, Gen. Prideaux, with Sir William Johnson second in command, left Oswego with an army of 2,000 men and 500 Indians on an expedition against Fort Niagara at the mouth of the Niagara River, then occupied by the French. The expedition was supplied with heavy artillery and all necessary equipments for a protracted siege, and was transported in vessels, batteaux and canoes. Coasting the south shore of Lake Ontario the first night's encampment was made at Sodus, the second at Irondequoit, and the third at Braddock's Bay—which latter place was then Prideaux Bay, in honor of the English commander who was killed a few days later during the siege." Joseph Brant, then about 17 years of age, was in the Mohawk contingent that accompanied the expedition, and is said to have acquitted himself with "distinguished bravery" during the campaign. Especial mention is made of the good be-

havior of the Indians—of whom Brant was one—in the open field engagement of July 24th, when the French reinforcements under D'Aubrey suffered a disastrous defeat. Brant received an English education through the liberality of Sir William Johnson, who employed him in public business for several years and contributed to his advancement until he became a leading man of the Mohawk nation.

At the beginning of the revolutionary war Tryon county included all of the colony of New York west and southwest of Schenectady, with the county seat at Johnstown, the residence of Sir William Johnson, who died suddenly on the 24th of June, 1774, and was succeeded in his title and estate by his son, Sir John Johnson. The official positions of superintendent of the Indian department, and major-general of militia, held by Sir William, were conferred on his son-in-law Col. Guy Johnson, and Joseph Brant was made secretary to Guy Johnson. The leading and influential men of Tryon county at that date were Sir John and Col. John Johnson, their brother-in-law Col. Daniel Claus, Col. John Butler and his son, Walter N. Butler—all bitter partisans of the king. In 1763 the Mohawks numbered 160 warriors, the Oneidas 250, Tuscaroras 140, Onondagas 150, Cayugas 200 and Senecas 1,050. For many years they had received their supplies through Sir William Johnson, gone to him for advice and counsel, and looked upon him as an oracle. At his death their affections were transferred to his family and successors. They had been taught to reverence the name of the king, believed him all powerful, and considered the officers of the crown their best friends. Hence it was but natural that they should side with the British in the contest between king and colonists. In 1775 Guy Johnson, Col. John Butler, his son Walter and other Tories, Brant and a number of Mohawks moved to Fort Stanwix, (Rome) thence to Ontario, Oswego and Montreal. Sir John Johnson subsequently followed them, and returning to Oswego raised two battalions of Tories known as Royal Greens, while Colonel Butler recruited a body of loyalists termed Rangers. These troops and those Indians of the Six Nations who took up arms under the English standard, ravaged Tryon County with relentless fury during the war. Brant was commissioned a captain in the British service, and visited England in 1775. Returning to America early in 1776 he entered into the conflict with all the force of his fiery nature, and was speedily recognized as the principal war chief and master spirit of the British Indian allies. His name was associated with every affair in which Indians were engaged—often unjustly—and became





the terror of the American border. The Senecas being the most popular of the Six Nations and farthest from the theater of war, their settlements on the Genesee became a secure retreat whence many expeditions were projected. The precise date with the Mohawks settled in the Seneca country is not positively known, but it is supposed that they came directly from Canajoharie at the time Johnson, Butler and Brant moved to Fort Stanwix in 1775. They located near the Niagara River at Lewiston, and formed a considerable village along the Ridge on the present road between the old academy building and the mountain road leading up Indian hill to the Tuscarora reservation. Brant's residence was a block house that stood near "Brant's spring" on the former Isaac Cook farm. On their removal the Mohawks carried with them a bell taken from the church at Canajoharie. They built a log church at Lewiston and hung the bell on a pole suspended from the crotch of a tree. Fort Niagara was then the headquarters of the British, and there, and at Brant's Mohawk village, were concocted many of the schemes of rapine and carnage that devastated the distant borders of American civilization.

During Brant's absence in June, 1778, Col. Butler with his Tory Rangers and a detachment of Sir John Johnson's Royal Greens, marched from Fort Niagara to the Genesee castle at the confluence of the Genesee River and Canaseraga Creek, where they were joined by 500 Indians under Gi-en-gwah-toh (He-who-goes-in-the smoke) a prominent Seneca chief. The expedition moved up the Canaseraga Valley, down the Conhocton and Chemung to Tioga Point, embarked upon the Susquehanna and landed about twenty miles above Wyoming which place was attacked and destroyed with terrible slaughter. The route pursued by Butler's expedition was the one usually followed by the British and their savage allies when making forays upon Eastern settlements, and on their return, with captives and plunder, to the Genesee and Niagara. Occasionally the northern trails were used between Canaseraga Creek and Lake Ontario, and war parties not unfrequently crossed the site of Rochester. Butler's Rangers were at Irondequoit Bay several times, and their final exit from the lower Genesee was through the present boundaries of the city. "During the revolution," said Mary Jemison, who then resided at the Genesee castle, "my house was the home of Colonel Butler and Brant, whenever they chanced to come into our neighborhood, as they passed to and from Fort Niagara, which was the seat of their military operations. Many and many a night I have pounded samp for them from sunset till sun-

rise, and furnished them with the necessary provisions and clean clothing for their journey."

## II.

The atrocities committed at Wyoming Cherry Valley and other frontier settlements, induced congress to attempt the destruction of all the towns of the Six Nations in the British interest. In 1779 Gen. Sullivan invaded their country, and on his march up the Chemung, near Elmira, encountered a large force of British and Indians, under Col. Butler and Brant, which he defeated. On the arrival of the army at the head of Conesus Lake, Gen. Sullivan sent a party, under command of Lieut. Boyd, to discover the Genesee Castle. Boyd's party passed through the lines of Butler's forces, which lay in ambush near the western side of Conesus inlet, and reached a deserted Seneca town near the Canaseraga Creek, undiscovered. On attempting to return the following morning Boyd was led into the ambush prepared for Sullivan's entire army, his party cut to pieces, and himself and Sergeant Parker made captives. Butler—knowing nothing of Boyd's presence in his rear—hearing the firing, supposed that Sullivan had outflanked him, and at once retreated. Boyd had by some means learned that Brant was a Free Mason, and soliciting an interview with the chief, made himself known as a "brother in distress." The appeal was recognized, and Brant immediately, and in the strongest language, assured Boyd that his life would be spared. Brant, however, being called on to perform some service which required a few hours' absence, left the prisoners in the charge of Col. Butler, who—upon their refusal to answer his questions—delivered them over to the Indians under Little Beard for torture. "Previous to the arrival of Sullivan's army" (at the Genesee Castle), says Peck's History of Rochester, page 71, "the Indians had sent all their women and children to Silver Lake, and upon the first appearance of the American troops on the West side of the river the enemy fled precipitately. Brant, with his warriors and the British regulars, took the Moscow trail for Buffalo creek and Niagara, while the Troy Rangers went to the Caledonia springs. From that place Walker, the noted British spy was sent to Fort Niagara with instructions to obtain a sufficient number of boats to transport the Tories and meet them at the mouth of the Genesee River. The Rangers then came down the trail to Red Creek ford at the rapids in South Rochester, where they divided into two parties, one going directly to the lake by the St. Paul street route; the other over the portage trail to Irondequoit landing, thence across the country to the mouth of the Genesee, where the boats from





Niagara found the entire party in a starving condition some days later."

Niagara remained the headquarters of the British, and at the close of the war the Mohawks were still residing on the ridge near Lewiston. At the cessation of hostilities, the Senecas offered them a tract of land in the Senesee Valley, but the Mohawks did not wish to reside within the boundaries of the United States, and eventually settled on the Grand River, in Canada, which enters Lake Erie about forty miles above the falls of Niagara. Here they received a crown grant of six miles breadth from each side of the river, beginning at Lake Erie and extending in that proportion to the head of the river, about proportion to the river, about 100 miles. This grant was doubtless intended solely for the Mohawks; but other Indians of the Six Nations, including some who had borne arms against the British and Mohawks, settled there. The great council fire of the Iroquois confederacy, which had been kept burning at Onondaga from time immemorial, was declared extinguished in 1777 by the Oneidas and Onondagas. Brant never resigned his station as principal war chief of the confederacy, and some years after the Mohawks settled in Canada: the council fire was declared rekindled and re-located at the Onondaga village on the Grand river reservation.

After the revolution Brant devoted his time principally to the interests of his people. From 1790 to 1800 he was through the lower Genesee County many times. On his return from the Niagara River in 1793, William Hencher, of Charlotte, stopped at a camping ground, on the site of ancient Tega-tai-nasgh-que, where the village of Cary or Oakfield now stands, and there found Brant with a white servant. The chief was well dressed after the fashion of white men; but before they parted he changed his dress entirely, putting on an Indian dress, and getting Tuscarora Charles (an Indian accompanying Hencher) to paint him like an Indian warrior: as he preferred to meet the Indians at Tonawanda like one of themselves. Enos Stone, in his reminiscences in "Phelps and Gorham's Purchase," page 425, relates a similar incident. "In an early day," he says, "I was stopping with my brother, Orange." The latter lived at "The Rock and Tree" East Avenue east of Brighton village. "Chauncey Hyde and myself were out hunting cattle. We saw a smoke rising at the Irondequoit landing and went down to it. We found that it proceeded from an Indian camp; as we approached it two Indians rose up from a couch, one of whom especially attracted our attention. His camp equipage we thought rather

extraordinary for an Indian. He was also dressed—partly as a white man, and partly as an Indian—bid us good morning with great civility, and displaying a gold watch and trimmings, observed that being wearied he had overslept. He soon announced himself as Joseph Brant, on his way from Burlington bay to Canandaigua. Having arrived in a boat he had sent Indian runners to Canandaigua for horses, and was waiting their return. He accepted an invitation and came up with us to my brother's. His familiar conversation and gentlemanly manners soon convinced us that he was not the savage we had conceived him to be, from accounts we had heard and read of him, in connection with the border wars. He quieted our apprehensions of any farther Indian troubles by assuring us that as the Senecas had sold their lands to the whites, the bargain should be carried out in good faith and the new settlements should not be molested. He manifested much interest in all that was going on in this region, and inquired where new settlements were commencing. The visit gave us great pleasure and quieted our fears. In person Joseph Brant bore a close resemblance to General Brady of the United States Army."

To return to the day and the occasion which brings me here, I can truthfully say that this is the most notable gathering of the Six Nations since the revolution. There are here from Canada and the United States several thousand delegates together with Crees, Bloods, Piegons and Blackfeet from northwest territory under Col. McDonald and Interpreters P. Hourie and J. L. Heureux. Many distinguished Canadians and Americans are here. The procession at 12 o'clock marched through the principal streets to Victoria Square. It included the Dufferin Rifles, chiefs, warriors, Indian bands, the Brant Memorial Association, distinguished guests, Lieutenant-Governor Robinson, the Burford Cavalry, General Sir T. Middleton, president of the Memorial Association, the mayor, council, warden and county council. At the square prayer was offered by the Rev. Mr. Cochrane. After an address by the president of the association, the monument was unveiled by the sculptor and twelve chiefs. An address by the lieutenant governor was followed by the singing of the Brant memorial song. The Mendelssohn Society sang the memorial ode. Addresses were made by the chief of the Six Nations, and general superintendent of Indian affairs. The president of the association finally presented the monument, which is a magnificent work of art, to the mayor of Brantford.

GEORGE H. HARRIS.





## ABORIGINAL STONE IMPLEMENTS.

Some Archaeological Notes of Wyoming and Lackawanna Valleys, by Dr. H. Hollister, of Scranton, whose Cabinet Embraces 20,000 Specimens.

When the whites first entered the solitude of the Wyoming and Lackawanna wilderness in search of homes in 1762 they found the occupants representing the true stone age. No iron, steel or brass utensils were here; few bone and fewer copper implements had found their way into the hands of the self reliant and ingenious aborigines. Whether the Indian drifted along the Susquehanna in his canoe or sought the wigwam he had planned upon its banks for repose, he looked to his flint-pointed arrow and spear point, his sling-stone and his sturdy stone tomahawk for the sustenance, independence and supremacy he enjoyed. They served his purpose well. The forest swarmed with game as yet unstartled by the sound of the gun or the hound, and the streams, unvexed with the subtlety of seines, abounded with shad and trout.

Along the Upper Lackawanna four Indian villages stood one hundred and twenty-four years ago; the two principal ones were Capoose at Scranton and Asserughney at the forks of the Lackawanna with the Susquehanna at Pittston, while from Nanticoke to this point were several. On the Pittston side no evidence appears of the presence of the tribal race until Port Blanchard is reached. Here Miner describes an ancient fortress with its debris, which was probably built and used by some people prior to the occupancy of the country by the red man. Upon the Shawnee flats and on the spot where Wilkes-Barre now stands as well as upon the opposite lands, the wigwams diversified the plains with their smoke when Zinzendorf, in 1742, visited Wyoming as a missionary and as the first white man, to look upon the wild luxuriance of the fascinating valley.

The Monsey tribe inhabited the La-hr-hanna Valley, while the Nanticokes, the Shawnees, the Delawares, with Teedynseung as chief, and other clans patrolled Wyoming. These tribes all belonged to the confederation of the Six Nations, formed by the union of the Mohawks, Senecas, Onondagas, Oneidas, Cayugas and the Tuscaroras, whose council fires illumined the great lakes of New York, and whose stone contrivances were of a similar character to those found here.

No section of country, however, furnished the student of archaeology greater reward for his time and labor than that strip of land lying at the junction of the Lackawanna with the Susquehanna. The Indian village of Asserughney stretched from Falling Spring to the mouth of the Lackawanna, a distance of half a mile. Here, under the shadows of Campbell's Ledge, whose summit served as a lookout for miles, he fashioned his tent and lived in the deep solitude of his forest home, in plenty and safety.

Around this and other deserted villages a vast amount of stone implements have been found, after each spring's freshet, during the last half century. Hon. Steuben Jenkins, of Wyoming, than whom there is no greater archaeologist within the State—whose magnificent collection of Indian relics is only surpassed by my own of over twenty thousand pieces, has gathered from the east bank of the Susquehanna every known implement of peace and every weapon of warfare once owned and used by the warriors. It is the most fruitful archaeological field within the two valleys.

The *sling stone*—which some have mistaken for sinkers—found here in great abundance, was an oval flat stone with an indentation in its side for a thong of deer sinew or twisted grass, which was thrown with great force and precision against rabbits, pheasants, squirrels, turkeys and lesser game upon all sides. Throwing this stone made no noise like the report of a rifle and the result was that all wild animals were comparatively tame, because they were unconscious of fear. The weight of these stone was from an ounce to three pounds.

The *arrow point* was the principal weapon of offense and defence. Of these a hundred or more varieties, and some of the most exquisite and rare workmanship, have been washed from the graves and found in perfect condition. The common arrow points, constructed from the flinty stones found on the banks of our rivers, were affixed to the shaft of the arrow, about one foot and a half in length, so that they could be pulled out and used again if not broken. The serrated or saw arrow point was used for making ugly wounds and lacerating blood vessels. There being no surgeons among the tribes these skillfully notched points could not be extracted and would of course produce a lingering death. The sharp war point, always built from silex, was so shaped and affixed to the arrow that the stem could be taken from the victim, leaving the point to irritate and produce inflammation and death.

A blunt point was used by the young bucks to practice with. They were fashioned blunt for obvious reasons. Long and slender points were used for shooting fish and for penetrating the vitals of moose, bear and





deer. Smaller ones were used for killing birds.

A *javelin*, or large spear point, nine inches in length and five inches in width, of red flint, was found in Capoose Mound in Scranton. It had been used and the tip was broken in some conflict. Its immense size would indicate a chief as its possessor at the time of its burial.

A long slender arrow or spear point, seven inches in length and one and a half in width was used for killing animals requiring great penetration of thrust to reach the vital parts.

For agricultural purposes the savages had a vast quantity of implements, sometimes rudely made, but always serving the required purpose. A *pick*, or grubbing hoe, twelve inches in length, with a depression for a withe handle, served the tiller of the soil in every exigency. The squaws planted the corn, hoed the tobacco and vines, and did all manual labor with patience and ease. A flat stone *hoe*, with its sides notched for the handle, could be used in the sandy soil of the river banks to great advantage. A pick ten inches in length was employed in digging and planting deeper in the ground. It was a strong tool and it had great power of resistance. Its weight was about five pounds.

One great source of amusement of the brave was the pitching of *quoits*. It not only afforded him amusement, but by long, steady habit, made him proficient in throwing the sling stone and the tomahawk.

Their four weapons of warfare were the arrow, the battle ax, the death maul and the tomahawk. A single and a double edged tomahawk with the wooden handle was fastened in the deep groove with deer skin. In the strong hands of the Indian they were a formidable instrument to defend their wigwams or to meet a foe. They fought from face to face and the victory was a matter of the strongest blows.

A *scalping* or skinning stone could have a single or a double edge. These stones, found in all Indian localities, were used for skinning purposes, and they were rubbed or ground down to an edge sharp as a knife. I have several hundred in my collection.

Two *death mauls*, constructed with singular ingenuity and labor, weighing fifteen pounds, with a deep depression entirely around them for the reception of the handle, used for killing their captives, were found at Pittston in 1857.

An Indian *mortar* or grist mill, for grinding corn into *na-samp* or samp, was the primitive mode of pulverizing corn. This mortar has a capacity of about two quarts and weighs about sixty pounds. A few miles east of Scranton on Bald Mount are several holes in the projecting rock, holding two or three quarts, which were once used by the Indians for grinding corn.

*Pestles* varying in length from six inches to two feet were used for pounding corn. These were always used by females as no male deigned to do manual labor. Warfare and hunting were his only pastime. Sometimes they were made from burned clay, but generally from stone. The largest one in my collection weighs ninety pounds and was used for crushing the corn by rolling. This was found at the mouth of the Lackawanna, while a small one, a foot in length, about the size of a broom-handle was picked up at Falling Spring in 1862, by Dr. Sturdevant, of Wilkes-Barre. Some of these have an indenture upon one end by which they were affixed to a bending sapling when used, and could thus be carried upon the person of the owner. All these corn pounders, some two hundred in number, exhibit great skill, use and age.

*Amulets* made from dark seamless stones, from four to six inches in length, generally with a hole through them were worn by chieftains for personal ornament, and an emblem of authority, and to ward off disease and propitiate the gods to send the tribes good luck. The holes were made for transportation purposes.

A *stone bird*, so constructed that it could be carried by the owner, neatly carved from gray stone, was found at Throop, above Scranton. It was worn like the amulet by the virgin daughters of the chiefs as evidence of royalty, and for the purpose of charming away danger and insuring good crops of corn and tobacco. It is about four inches in length.

A string of *wampun* and *beads* were exhumed from Capoose Mound some years ago. They were manufactured from bone and small shells. In Connecticut, in 1687, a certain number of blue and black beads was made a legal tender for a penny. In 1671, this law was repealed.

A *ceremonial stone*, shaped like a hatchet, dull on its edge, about six inches long, with a large hole through the centre for the handle, was carried upon the occasion of a war dance or marriage, as we carry the American flag as a part of the ceremony.

*Stone rings* with a small hole drilled through the upper portion, weighing about an ounce, were also worn as decorations suspended by the neck or from the ear.

No article of luxury, however, was constructed with more care, cherished with holier memories, loved with more constant fervor than the *Indian's pipe*. Their calumet or pipe of peace was among their most prized and sacred articles of all stone implements of the wigwam. How long the red man had smoked his pipe along the Mohawk or the Hudson before the discovery we know not, but the white man was not cursed with the knowledge of tobacco until Sir Walter





Raleigh introduced it into England from America. A black stone pipe with representations of a wolf on one end and a bear upon the other, the bowl upheld by a warrior upon either side, and a large log underneath the whole, is in my possession with many others, and it gives the Indian's idea of astronomy.

A large number of stone relics are in my hands whose name and use I know nothing about.

The collection of Mr. Jenkins is far superior to mine in pipes and pottery.

Upon every cheek that ever bloomed and smiled beauty will fade, but these mementoes of another day and another race, neglected by many and treasured by but few, will ever remain in the hands of the archaeologist perfect in their simplicity and beautiful in their silence. H. HOLLISTER.

#### Valuable Archaeological Collection.

[Bethlehem Times.]

The Lehigh University has been presented with a valuable archaeological collection of from 1,500 to 2,000 specimens by Chas. H. Cummings, of Mauch Chunk. The collection illustrates the weapons and utensils of the Indian tribes formerly living along the Susquehanna and in the eastern part of Pennsylvania. It is particularly valuable because, instead of being a collection from all over the country, with but one or two specimens from a single locality, it is a very complete collection from a single locality, and its hows very fully the habits and local peculiarities of the Indians of this locality. The collection contains from 50 to 75 perfect specimens of stone axes, both grooved and ungrooved; a fine lot of stone mortars and pestles; net-sinkers, banner stones, picks, pipes cooking pots, etc. The banner stones are curiously cut stones, which the old Indian chiefs would carry on the ends of long sticks. These stones were to the Indians what our flags are to us. Accompanying the collection are the fragments of an old mound builder's skull, found at Duraude Wis. There are also water jugs found in a mound near St. Louis, Mo., on which were trees having 1,000 annular rings, which indicates that the jugs are over 1,000 years old. The collection comprises several hundred very fine arrow heads, and spear heads, and a great deal of shell wampum. Mr. Cummings purchased the collection from Dr. Stabbs, of Oxford, Pa., an enthusiast on the subject, who has made the gathering of this collection a part of his life work. The doctor was getting old and so looked about him for somebody who would buy his collection as a whole and keep it together. The dealers were very anxious to get hold of the collection and break it up in small lots, but the doctor refused all

offers until Mr. Cummings offered to buy it for Lehigh University. Prof. E. H. Williams has charge of the collection and he is very proud of Mr. Cummings' very fine donation. It will be known as the Cummings archaeological collection.

#### Mr. Wilson's Recollections.

MT. VERNON, O., Oct. 1, 1886.—EDITOR RECORD: I was much interested, among your other historical matter, in the reminiscences of Sam. Wright. Sam commenced business selling small beer and baking on River Street, in an old building on the ground where now stands the John N. Conyngham homestead. There were three old buildings there, and River Street was the business street of the town 65 years ago. The old building was said to have been washed across the river in the great pumpkin freshet and landed down on the flat near the residence of Jabez Fish (the site of W. L. Conyngham's residence) and was afterwards moved up to where it stood on River Street. There were really three houses; the first my mother lived in, the second was occupied by Sam. Wright with his cake and beer shop; and Jacob Rudolph occupied the third as a shoe shop. The old shoe shop now stands on the Conyngham farm and you can tell it to-day by a large square window in the south end, where Rudolph did his cutting.

Sam Wright was a good old man. But I may think so from the fact that he kept me well supplied with good sweet cakes for doing small errands for him, and he gave me the first oyster I ever ate. I will never forget it. It did not stay with me long. The old man was the friend of all the boys, and some of the toniest boys in the town thought it a great favor to go and sleep with the old man. The next house north was old Jacob Cist's stone house, and the next Mr. Cist's old yellow store; and there is where I saw the first Indian pot I ever saw. It was sitting on the shelf with a hole through the shelf to make it stand up, and it is now in the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society. Next building was Henry Young's gunsmith shop, and the next the Arndt hotel, and then the Hollenback store on the corner of South and River. Across the street was the Richardson hotel; on up River Street was Howe & Dennis' copper and tin shop, and above George Flakes' wagon shop and tire patterns. So you see that River Street was the business street of the town many years ago.

H. C. WILSON.

The *Media American* publishes in its issue of October 13, a valuable article by Philip Lennon on "The Doanes—the notorious outlaws in Bucks County," a century and more ago.





## A MASONIC FUNERAL IN 1779.

First Lodge Met in Northern Pennsylvania—Bones of the Martyrs Thrice Interred.

As an advance detachment of General Sullivan's army was approaching the Valley of Wyoming in April, 1779, it was fired on by a small band of Indians lying in ambush at a point near where General Oliver's powder mills now are on Laurel Run, and Captain Joseph Davis and Lieut. William Jones, of a Delaware regiment, were slain. The bodies received a hasty burial near the spot where they fell, for soldiers on the march have little time to waste on sympathy. On the arrival of the invading army en route to accomplish its mission of forever wiping out the power of the once mighty Six Nations in the State of New York, in the month of July following, the remains were exhumed and reburied with imposing Masonic services by brother Masons belonging to the army. So far as is known, by either record or tradition, it was on this occasion that the first lodge of Free Masons ever met on this side of the Blue Mountains, was opened in due and ancient form in Colonel Proctor's marquee, which was probably pitched somewhere on what is now the Common on the river front of our city, the object being to arrange a funeral service for the re-interment of their brethren slain on the mountain the preceding April. We have no means of knowing whether the more solemn portion of the Masonic burial service took place in the secrecy of the lodge room at that time, as it does now, or not, but the following account of the imposing ceremony on depositing the bodies in the grave is copied from the Providence, Rhode Island, *Gazette* of Sept. 18, 1779:

"WYOMING, July 31, 1779.—On Tuesday last, the 28th inst., agreeable to previous determination, the bodies of our brethren, Capt. Joseph Davis and Lieut. William Jones, who were massacred by savages near this post on the 23d of April last, were re-interred. This mark of respect we thought necessary for the following reasons: it being expressive of our esteem and their not being buried in the proper grave-yard. The form of procession being fixed upon at lodge No. 19, was as follows:

1. Twenty-four Musketeers with reversed arms.
2. Two Tylers bearing their swords.
3. A band of music.
4. Two Deacons with wands.
5. Three brethren bearing the orders.
6. The Holy Bible and Book of Constitutions.
7. Two Reverend brothers.

8. The Worshipful Master, with Hon. Major General Sullivan.

9. Senior and Junior Wardens, bearing their columns.

10. The Treasurer and Secretary.

11. Past Master.

12. The brethren, two and two.

13. Gentlemen of the Army.

14. Two corps of drums muffled and fifes playing a solemn dirge.

The brethren were neatly clothed with jewels, etc., and were in numbers odd of one hundred and fifty. Just as we arrived at the ground an exceeding easy gust of rain coming up prevented the delivery of a discourse which had been prepared for the occasion by Brother William Rogers, a short and suitable prayer being by him offered up. We then committed their bodies in Masonic form to the dust. Afterwards three volleys of small arms were discharged. The Brotherhood were attended by the Pennsylvania Regiment of Infantry, commanded by Col. Hubley, as likewise by a great concourse of people, both inhabitants and soldiery. The melancholy scene was clothed with the usual decorum amongst the brethren and satisfaction to all the bystanders. A stone being prepared by our brethren Forest and Story with suitable inscription, was fixed at the head of their graves."

The first interment was on the top of the Wilkes-Barre Mountain, near where Charles Parrish's sylvan residence now is. The one here spoken of was within a few feet of the corner of Market and Washington Streets, on ground now occupied by the skating rink, but they were not permitted to enjoy a final resting place even here. A marble headstone had taken the place of the rude one set by their Masonic brethren at the re-interment, so that the graves were readily recognized in after years, and when the removal of the bones of the forefathers of the hamlet were ruthlessly shoveled up by the unsympathizing stranger workmen not many years ago, and some of them removed to the new cemetery, the remains of these two victims of savage warfare were again dug up and removed to the Hollenback Cemetery, and again interred with high Masonic ceremonies conducted by old Lodge 61, with Hendrick B. Wright as worshipful master: where it is hoped they may be permitted to rest in undisturbed repose until the last trumpet shall sound and bid the dead awake and come to judgment. W. J.

[So far as we know the above newspaper extract has never been reprinted. We are informed by Dr. Hollister that he copied it from an issue of the paper mentioned, in the possession of Pulaski Carter, of Providence, Pa. The *Gazette* was published at Providence, R. I., by John Carter, probably an ancestor of Pulaski Carter.—Ed.]





### How We Acquired Our Domain.

The Public Domain of the United States are lands in which the general Government has exclusive property, whether they be situated in the States or Territories. They are those of which Henry Clay, when he first ran for President in 1832, said "no subject which has presented itself to the present, or perhaps any preceding Congress, was of greater magnitude than that of the public lands. Long after we shall cease to be agitated by other public questions now before us the public lands will remain a subject of deep and enduring interest." Our public domain has been acquired by cessions, purchase and conquest, and, in view of its rapid absorption, and the opinions involved, it is interesting now to review its history.

The British subjects who came to this country were obliged to comply with three conditions before, as individuals, or colonies, they acquired full title to the land: First, A grant from the Crown of Great Britain; Second, Extinguishment from the Indian title, and Third, Possession. Of the Indian titles, it is sufficient to say that, sham philanthropy to the contrary notwithstanding, no set of people on earth were ever treated with the consideration our Indians have often received, under circumstances constantly the most exasperating, in treating with them for their lands. It has rarely occurred that they have been cheated, treacherous and deceptive though they themselves are.

By treaty of 1783, the result of the Revolutionary war, the United States was recognized as extending from the Atlantic ocean to the Mississippi River, and from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico, comprising 830,000 square miles. Most of the land lying west of the Allegheny Mountains, viz.: 405,000 square miles, known as "Crow Lands," became the subject of a protracted struggle for ownership between the colonies, when that war broke out—owing to the indefinite grants by the British Crown. These serious differences were averted, however, about the close of the war, by all ceding their lands in dispute to the general Government. The part lying north of the River Ohio, known as the "Northwest Territory," was claimed by four colonies, each a part, some all; namely, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York and Virginia. In the south the Carolinas and Georgia claimed extensions westward to the Mississippi.

In September, 1776, in order to give incentive to the soldiers, Congress resolved to donate bounty lands for military services. But the general Government had no lands to give. They were claimed exclusively by a few of the colonies, and of the others it is surprising that only one saw how she would

be impoverished by attempting to execute this resolution. To little Maryland appears to belong solely this foresight, which eventuated in the creation of the public domain. Maryland's delegates in Congress were at once directed by the home Legislature to oppose the above resolution, but they were entirely alone in their opposition, and Virginia, establishing a land office, proceeded to deal out some 3,000 claims. But Maryland persisted in her efforts; caused her delegates in 1779 to refuse to sign the Articles of Confederation then so necessary to give strength to our country's cause, and, by 1780, to meet the demands of the war, New York agreed to cede her claims in the Northwest to the general Government. Virginia's delegates, Jefferson and Madison, then signed articles ceding her extra lands, and the others soon following, the public domain came into existence, with a beginning of about two hundred and sixty million acres. So much for cessions.

When Jefferson became President he at once began efforts to purchase New Orleans of the French, regarding any foreign power in ownership of that island and city as the natural and certain enemy of the United States. Two million dollars were offered for it and declined, but, by a stretch of authority, and a stroke of diplomacy, our representative at the French court, Mr. Monroe, purchased of Napoleon Bonaparte in 1803 not only New Orleans, but all the Louisiana district, five times the area of France of to-day. The price was sixteen million dollars, one-fourth of which (if they amounted to so much) was to be paid to our citizens having claims against France known as the French Spoliation Claims. The territory thus acquired was about seven hundred and fifty-seven million acres, and is now cut up into eleven States and six Territories, and cost, including interest, three and three-fifths cents an acre. In 1802 Georgia ceded her extra fifty-seven and a half million acres to the United States, but, having previously sold most of it to the Yazoo companies, it cost us six million two hundred thousand dollars, about 11 cents an acre.

Thirty-eight million acres of East and West Florida still owned abroad were purchased of Spain in 1819, for six and a half million dollars. Alaska, whose climate, vegetation, minerals, furs and fisheries made it a most valuable acquisition, was purchased of Russia, through Baron Stoeckel, in 1867, for seven million two hundred thousand dollars; and thus three hundred and seventy million acres were added to the public domain.

The remainder of the public domain has been acquired as the result of conquest. Mexico, by treaty of Cordova, became independent of Spain in 1821. Texas, belonging then to Mexico, but settled mostly by emi-





grants from the United States, desired to be admitted as one of our States. Mr. Clay, then Secretary of State, offered Mexico one million dollars for Texas in 1827, and Mr. Van Buren offered five millions in 1829—which were declined. Texas rebelled against Mexico and obtained separation in 1836, but still failed in her design of being admitted as one of our States. The North had long been opposed to agrarian extension in the South, for that meant extension of negro slavery. But the South was victorious in 1843 and elected Polk President on that issue, linked to a promise of high tariff. Texas was then admitted as a State in this Union, and war with Mexico was the result. Texas was bankrupt, and for the public lands we got from her, sixteen million dollars of her debts were paid by this country. But this was more than balanced in the end, for the Mexican war resulted in her ceding to us New Mexico and Upper California for fifteen million dollars, together with the Gadsden purchase, also of Mexico, of a tract as large as Pennsylvania, for ten millions more.

And this comprises all the public domain. The aggregate is over eighteen hundred million acres. It is subject to a great variety of acts, by virtue of which it has been enormously reduced in the past thirty years. At first it was the policy of the Government to dispose of it as a means of revenue, but it was soon learned that the greatest real benefit would be derived from such disposition as would enable settlers to cultivate it free of first cost. With such vast possibilities before them, it is not surprising that politicians have run mad, and many speculators swamped; that the United States is the greatest agricultural country in the world, and the mother countries view with alarm what promises to be the strongest and wealthiest nation in the world at no distant day.

#### The Burying Ground at White Haven.

On Saturday, Nov. 6, a meeting of the Laurel Cemetery Association, White Haven, was held for the purpose of dedicating a newly acquired tract of land. Religious exercises were conducted by the local clergy—Rev. F. V. Krug, of the Presbyterian; Rev. H. H. Bruning, of the Evangelical Lutheran; Rev. G. H. Day, of the Methodist, and Rev. d'Estaing Jennings, of the Episcopal. Gains L. Halsey, Esq., gave an interesting historical sketch of the enterprise, which had its inception in 1842, at which time the Lehigh Coal & Navigation Co. set apart a tract for a public burying ground and as a site for a place or places of worship.

In 1795 the first newspaper in the county "The Herald of the Times," was published in Wilkes-Barre.

#### The Old Sullivan Road.

The first of a series of articles bearing the above title appeared in the November number of *The Guardian*, a monthly magazine of the Reformed Church. The paper is contributed by the Rev. Mr. Kieffer, of Easton, the editor of the magazine, and is of historical account, inasmuch as it relates some incidents hitherto unpublished or inaccessible to the general reader, connected with Gen. Sullivan's expedition against the Western Indians, which set out from Easton on its long and dangerous march in the year 1779. The attention of the State Historical Society, Philadelphia, having been called to these articles, the librarian has written to the editor of the *Guardian* requesting copies for preservation in the State and Revolution collections, giving also the much desired information that the block bearing the inscription "H. H.'s Kitchen" is in the possession of the society, having been purchased of Mr. Stokes, of Monroe County, some years ago. This curious and celebrated inscription was cut into the solid wood of the yellow pine tree on Sullivan's march away up in the Pocono region by some unknown hand, and after having been removed some thirty years ago, all trace of it was lost, no one being able to tell what had become of it. It will be of interest to some of our readers to know that it is where it ought to be—in the keeping of the State Historical Society, 1,300 Locust Street, Philadelphia.—*Easton Free Press*.

#### The Battle of Germantown.

The *Germantown Telegraph* for November 10 contains an historical article on "Ancient Germantown," by Rev. S. F. Hotchkiss. It is full of interesting matter relating to the Revolutionary period and of the occupation of Germantown by the British. In the course of the narration it is related how one of the Keyzers, then living there, escaped from her home while entertaining under compulsion a party of British soldiers, she thus saving the family silver and a fine horse. The silver was buried and not found for many years. "It has been seen, the writer says, by Martin Coryell, of Lambertville, N. J., a descendant, but was lost in 1833 by a robbery. Mrs. Coryell, and her sister, Mrs. John Anderson, are descendants also of Mr. Day, from whom Day's Lane takes its name." Mr. and Mrs. Coryell were formerly residents of Wilkes-Barre and have a host of friends here. A previous article by Mr. Hotchkiss was descriptive of "The Chew House and the Battle of Germantown." The series form a valuable contribution to Revolutionary history.





## NANTICOKE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**Its Early History**—One of its first Moderators, Rev. E. Hazard Snowden, still living.

The following interesting sketch of the Nanticoke Presbyterian Church is from the *Quarterly Review*, a neat little paper issued from the *Sun* office, by Rev. G. H. Ingram, pastor of the church:

The session have in their possession the records of the church back as far as Nov. 27, 1829. Then it was called the Church of Hanover and Newport. At the organization there were two ministers present, Rev. Cyrus Gildersleeve and Rev. Nicholas Murray. The meeting was held in the school house, near Mr. Line's. Eighteen members were received from the Congregational Church in Wilkes-Barre. Ruling elders were chosen—John Schleppy, Anderson Dana, Jr., and Henry Stayer. John Schleppy was chosen deacon. The new officers were ordained to their offices. The names of the members are as follows:

John Schleppy, Anderson Dana, Jr., Henry Styer, Elizabeth Fairchild, Margaret Fairchild, Mary Line, Mary Lueder, Christian Schleppy, Anna Styer, John Sarber, Solomon Mill, Abraham Arnold, Sarah Schleppy, Clara Sarber, Elizabeth Whipple, Lorrinda Dilley.

The session of the church of Hanover and Newport continued to meet in the school house, "near Mr. Line's" or "near Mr. Mill's" until 1832, when on March 19th the entry is made "The Session met agreeable to appointment at the Nanticoke church. Rev. Mr. Rhodes presided as Moderator." At this meeting Miss Rosanna Fairchild was received into the church upon profession of faith.

In 1834 Rev. J. Dorrance moderated the Session by request.

In Nov. 1836, Rev. Mr. Corse moderated the meeting of Session.

In Sept. 1837, Rev. Mr. E. H. Snowden presided.

May 21, 1843, the following entry appears: "The Rev. E. H. Snowden closed his connection with this church after supplying the pulpit one fourth of the time for seven years." From the time of the organization until May, 1844, thirty persons united with the church: Rosanna Fairchild, Catharine Vandermark, Jane Agatant, John Mill, St. John Koeker, Elizabeth Ann Schleppy, Julia Ann Slagle, James Atchley, Mary Atchley, Priscilla Fairchild, Robt. G. Robbins, Jr., R. Robbins, Sr., Margaret Robbins, John Robbins, Sarah Robbins, Elizabeth Robbins, Julian Stettler, Christiana Robbins, Susanna Roate, Lavinia Espy, Elizabeth Lape, Elizabeth Rasely, Susan Schleppy, Mary Vandermark, Ellen C. Styer, Martha Fairchild.

## Jenkins Family of Rhode Island.

The above is the title of a 16 page pamphlet by Hon. Steuben Jenkins, of Wyoming, reprinted from the *Narraganset Historical Register*. The author finds that the Jenkins families were among the first to become Friends. The first trace he can get of his branch of the family (searched out from the records of the Sandwich Monthly Meeting of Friends, the oldest organized society of those people in America) is relative to one John Jenkins, of Sandwich. The name John seems to have been a favorite one, it having been borne by one generation after another (with only a single break) down to the author's grandfather, who was of the sixth generation from John of Sandwich. The name of John figures so extensively in the records as to quite confuse the general reader. The original John, in 1658, was fined or "distrained" 19 pounds, 10 shillings for attending Quaker meeting. He had a son, Zachariah, (born 1651, died 1723), who had a son John, (born 1697, died 1742), who had a son John, (born 1728, died 1784), who had a son John, (born 1751, died 1827). The latter was Col. John Jenkins, grandfather of Hon. Steuben Jenkins. He was a school teacher, surveyor and conveyancer. He was one of the pioneers in settling Wyoming Valley, and was a leading man in the controversies with the Pennamites. He was guide to Sullivan's army in 1779 in the expedition to the northern wilderness to avenge the atrocities of the year before at Wyoming and Cherry Valley. He was born at Gardner's Lake, New London, Conn., Nov. 27, 1751, O. S., and died at Wyoming in 1827, on the historic battle ground. He married Bethiah Harris, of Colchester, Conn., in Jenkins Fort, Wyoming, only a fortnight before the bloody massacre of July 3, 1778. They had eight children, James (born 1796, died 1873) being the author's father. He was a lieutenant in the Revolutionary army, resided in Exeter Township, Luzerne County, Pa., where he died in 1827. James Jenkins married in 1815, Elizabeth, daughter of Capt. Samuel Breeze, of Basking Ridge, N. J. Hon. Steuben Jenkins is the third of their nine children, not one of whom, however, bears the traditional name of John. We notice that in 1745 one Stephen Wilcox married the widow of one of the Johns, but whether this is the same family as the William A. Wilcox, who married a daughter of the author, we are unable to say.

In 1787, on May 27th, Justices of the Court of Common Pleas commissioned and sworn in.





#### Fortunes Awaiting Claimants.

Dr. W. H. Egle, author of "Pennsylvania Genealogies," gives the following good advice in his *Notes and Queries* department of the *Harrisburg Telegraph*, advice, too, which may benefit some in Wilkes-Barre, the same "list" referred to by Dr. Egle having recently been advertised in a local paper:

A correspondent writes us to this effect: "I see in the *Free Press* of Detroit a list of names of persons entitled to money and property in England, France, Germany and other countries, among them being those of Dixon, Cochran, Murray, Henry and Robinson. My ancestors on my father's side came from England, on my mother's side from Scotland and Ireland. As you know so much about my ancestors I thought I would ask you if it would be any use to send our names as claimants. The advertisement says that \$480,000,000 lie buried in the courts of chancery, Bank of England, etc., awaiting claimants. The date of the newspaper is Oct. 9, 1886. I know that my grand mother often told us there were money and property for us if we got our rights. Please let me know what you think of this advertisement. It also says, send to the British American Claim Agency, Stewart Building, New York City, for their book register." This is only a specimen of letters very frequently received by us. We can only reiterate what we have heretofore said upon this subject. The whole thing is a deception of the basest kind, and the villains who are interested in this scheme to defraud the unwary deserve the penitentiary. There is no money awaiting unknown claimants and these thieving rascals who send out such advertisements know it.

#### Mr. Loop's Coon Sausage Dinner.

We had a conversation with Mr. Edward S. Loop, who has just returned from an extensive visit west through Western New York, Canada, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin. Returning he stopped off at Detroit, at the Griffin House, where he found the most clean and comfortable compartments he met with during his entire journey West, in a public house. From thence he left for Pontiac, Mich., to see his old colored friend "Black Ben Tennant," as he was well known on the Ross farms over fifty years ago. Mr. Loop took a good dinner with him and family, of stewed chicken and coon sausage, celery, cranberries, sweet and white potatoes, two kinds of pickles and pies, cake, etc., etc., enjoying all. Jack Frost is getting into Tom's hair for he is nearly 84 years old. He cultivates a patch of ground a mile or so out of Pontiac and is happy with his wife and large family. His wife is a sister of Mrs. Susan Anderson, of this city. His

elder son, Thomas Miner, named for the elder Dr. Miner, is a carver at the Hodge House and his daughter Lavina is the cook. Another son, Tom, is a horse jockey when on land and at other times is head porter on one of the lake steamers. The family are all strict Methodists and Mr. Loop joined heartily in an "amen" after thanks were said for the coon sausage and other delicacies. Ben has many pleasant recollections of life in Wilkes-Barre and these will now be augmented by the *WEEKLY RECORD* which hereafter is to go to him regularly. The carriage was to call for his return at 4 pm. sharp. As it did not Ben said "never mind 'Sterl,' there will be another train later." "No, that will not do, I must be in Detroit to take 7:15 sharp." He made the train—the following passenger train was wrecked at Royal Oak, about 8 miles north of Detroit, and a number killed and injured. One of the most striking traits in Mr. Loop's character is his promptness and this determination to catch the 7:15 train probably saved his life.

ONE of the little deceptions which pleased our forefathers was a piece of furniture, looking like a book, but which on examination proved to be entirely of wood, the covers, raised bands, edges, etc., being very fairly simulated. This instrument—for such it was in reality—was nothing more or less than a pitchpipe for use in a church in order that the precentor might not start too high or too low when the psalm was given out. A New York man is the happy possessor of one. It measures three and a half by five and a half inches and was used in the first church in the town of Sterling, Mass., prior to the Revolution. At the junction of the upper edge with the front edge there is just such an aperture as is found in an ordinary whistle. The lower edge pulls out, being fastened to a slide, upon which the tones and half tones of the scale are marked by letters and lines. At the end of the slide is fastened packing of cork, which makes it fit accurately. Upon adjusting this slide at the desired pitch, and blowing through the aperture, a loud, clear tone is given forth. From the bottom of the movable edge hangs a piece of tape, which seems to serve as a book-mark and heightens the deception.

THE Doylestown *Democrat*, Nov. 16, says that M. W. Oliver, of Crawford County has donated to the Bucks County Historical Society a fine specimen of the iron axes which are frequently plowed up in the fields of Crawford County. The axe was shaped something like a hatchet, with a large eye, and was about seven inches long with about a four inch blade. The axes are supposed to have been made in Canada and used by the Indians in the French and Indian war.





## THE SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES.

Sketches of the Men who were Elected to  
Office on November 2.

## GOVERNOR, (REP.)

Gen. James A. Beaver, who has so handsomely just been shown the confidence of Pennsylvania, is not yet quite 50 years old, having been born in 1837 at Millerstown, Perry Co. His father died soon after James' birth and the boy was his mother's pride, a devoted son, a good scholar at the village school and a great favorite on the playground. In 1854, then in his 17th year, Beaver entered Jefferson College, at Canonsburg, Washington Co. In 1856 he was graduated, standing high in the class.

When but 19 years of age Beaver became a student at law in the office of Hon. H. N. McAllister, at Bellefonte, and entered the bar two years later. During his course of study Beaver had joined Captain Andrew G. Curtin's company, "Bellefonte Fencibles," and took great delight in the organization and drill.

President Lincoln's call for 75,000 men, at the outbreak of the rebellion, received an immediate answer from the Fencibles, who elected officers, Beaver being chosen first lieutenant, and proceeded at once to Harrisburg. After the expiration of its three months' time, however, it was mustered out. Beaver then entered, heart and soul, into the effort to raise a regiment, the 45th Pennsylvania Volunteers, and was made its lieutenant colonel. In October, 1861, the regiment proceeded to South Carolina.

The stress of war necessitated Lincoln's further call for 600,000 volunteers. Pennsylvania responded nobly, and Governor Curtin appointed Col. Beaver to the colonelcy of a regiment which went directly to meet Lee in Maryland. The new regiment first experienced the sight of battle at Antietam. In this bloody engagement Col. Beaver's younger brother, a gallant lieutenant, fell in leading a brave charge when at the very works of the enemy.

In the disastrous battle of Chancellorsville, where Hooker was temporarily incapacitated, and where Stonewall Jackson met his death, Beaver was severely wounded and taken home as soon as he could be moved.

While the brave colonel was recovering slowly Lee arrived on the soil of Pennsylvania and Beaver refused the advice of the surgeons and hurried again to the field. In several battles that followed Col. Beaver received distinguished mention and was given charge of a brigade. He took a gallant part in many engagements, being wounded again at Petersburg and carried from the field. While at the hospital Gen. Beaver became too restless for the surgeons, and on the eve of a decisive battle, rode

upon the field in an ambulance. In the engagement which followed he was again wounded severely, losing his leg. This closed Beaver's active record on the field, a record bustling with gallantry and bullet stains.

On his return home Gen. Beaver resumed the practice of law. In 1882, as all remember, he became the Republican candidate for Governor, and was defeated by the broken ranks of the party. With almost the unanimous consent he again became the standard bearer last summer and after one of the most stirring and cleanest campaigns in the State's history is elected by a rousing plurality of 45,000 votes.

## LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR, (REP.)

The face of Hon. Wm. T. Davies, Lieutenant-Governor-elect of the Commonwealth, has become familiar to Wilkes-Barreans during the campaign just closed. He has a characteristic American career; born in 1831, in Wales, he was brought to this State when two years of age, his father becoming a farmer in Warren, Bradford County. Living in the open air, used to hard work, Davies developed into a large and muscular lad fit for any amount of solid labor. In the odd hours of his time Davies read with avidity all the books that he could lay his hands on and his mind grew with his body. He entered the public school late and became a leader in his class.

Davies' good work at the local school gave such promise that he was sent to Owego Academy in New York, then famous, and he was graduated valedictorian with all honors. After graduating Davies betook himself to the pedagogue's profession, and in 1856, 25 years of age, he was appointed superintendent of schools in Towanda and continued there for four years, meantime studying law under Judge Elwell. In 1861 he was entered at the bar, and late in the same year he married Miss Watkins, daughter of a prominent lawyer of Towanda.

Davies in 1862 gave up his budding practice of law and enlisted in Co. B. 14th Reg. P. V., and in Oct. 1862, became its captain. A month later, before Fredericksburg, Capt. Davies was taken with typhoid fever and was compelled to return to his home. Recovering too slowly for his impatient desire to be at the front, Davies hurried back, against the will of his physicians, and as a result he suffered as severe a relapse that his life at one time was despaired of. In May, 1863, he was honorably discharged from service.

In 1865 Davies was elected district attorney of Bradford Co. In 1876 he was elected to the State Senate, where he has been a prominent figure, respected for his manliness, integrity and sound judgment. No man is better fit to preside over the deliberations





of the body in which Lieut.-Gov. Davies is so well known. He is a brother of Dr. R. Davies of this city and an uncle of Dr. Davies of Nanticoke.

#### AUDITOR GENERAL, (REP.)

Col. A. Wilson Norris, Pennsylvania's new auditor general, is still a young man, having been born in Lewistown 44 years ago. Entering upon active service, at the outbreak of the war, a lieutenant, in the 107th P. V., he served gallantly until 1863, when he was captured at the battle of Gettysburg, being held 20 months in captivity. In July, 1865, he was honorably discharged from active service, having risen to a captaincy. Capt. Norris studied law at the University of Pennsylvania, and in 1867 he entered the bar of Philadelphia, where he took up his residence. In 1872 he became Gov. Hartrauff's private secretary; in the same year he was the first recorder of the Board of Pardons; and in 1873 was appointed inspector general of the G. A. R., being elected, in the same year, as commander of the Department of Pennsylvania. During the six years following, Capt. Norris acted as secretary of the Republican State Committee, Capt. Norris served in other official positions, and 1881 was elected to the State Senate. On the staff of Gov. Hartrauff Capt. Norris was appointed colonel and aide-de-camp, and served as judge advocate general on Gov. Hoyt's staff. President Arthur appointed Col. Norris pension agent at Philadelphia, and he was removed by President Cleveland.

#### SECRETARY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

Thomas J. Stewart was born in 1848 near Belfast, Ireland, and is the youngest man of the new officials of the State. When less than a year old he was brought to Norristown by his parents, and there he has lived ever since. In 1864, Stewart, though but 16 years old, entered the army, where he served until the war concluded. On the close of his army life Stewart entered upon commercial business, manufacturing window glass. Since 1882 Mr. Stewart has been Assistant Adjutant General of the Pennsylvania Department of the G. A. R., and during 1884 and 1885 he acted in the same position over the national organization. For the last nine years he has been Adjutant of the 6th Regiment Infantry.

During the last two years Mr. Stewart has been a member of the Assembly and is recognized as an able legislator.

#### GEN. EDWIN S. OSBORNE, (REP.)

General Osborne, who was re-elected Congressman-at-large, was born in Bethany, Pa., August 7th, 1836, and was educated at the University of Pennsylvania, and at the New York State and National Law School, graduating in 1860 with the degree of LL. B. Shortly afterwards, on the break-

ing out of the Rebellion, he was one of the first to volunteer, enlisting as a private in the Eighth Pennsylvania Infantry, and despite his extreme youth and lack of previous military education he rapidly rose to a place of distinction. After serving with his regiment in General Patterson's command, he received a commission from Governor Curtin to recruit a company, and performing this duty joined the One Hundred and Forty-ninth as captain. The regiment formed part of the First Corps of the Army of the Potomac and participated in all the engagements of the corps till after the Gettysburg battle when it was consolidated into the Fifth Corps. In the meantime Captain Osborne had become Major of his regiment and Assistant Inspector-General of the Third Division. During the war he was three times wounded and was successively breveted Lieutenant-Colonel, Colonel and Brigadier-General for gallant and meritorious conduct in the face of the enemy.

Upon the close of the war, General Osborne was appointed Judge Advocate under General Holt, and sent to Macon and Andersonville to investigate the charges of cruelty to Federal prisoners of war by the Confederate Superintendent of Prisons, Captain Wirz. Upon a full investigation General Osborne preferred charges of murder against Wirz, who was tried by courtmartial at Washington, convicted and hanged. General Osborne was then sent to his own State to investigate charges of treason against various citizens confined in military prisons. He then resigned his commission, returned to his home in this city and engaged in the practice of his profession.

On the reorganization of the National Guards, the governor appointed Gen. Osborne the Major-General of them, and he held the position from 1871 to 1876. Gen. Osborne enjoys a lucrative law practice. He has had but little to do with politics, never having held a civil office until he was returned to Congress during the last general election. He is prominent in the Grand Army of the Republic, having been Department Commander in 1883. His popularity is attested in the State by the fact that he received 2,538 more votes than were polled for Blaine and Logan in the Presidential contest of 1884.

#### CONGRESS, (DEM.)

John Lynch, Esq., of the Luzerne Bar, is a native of Rhode Island, having been born at Providence in 1843. His father, a native of County Cavan, Ireland, emigrated to this country in 1830, residing in Wilkes-Barre from 1864 until his death in 1878, at the age of 75. John Lynch was educated at Wyoming Seminary, going to school in the winter and working as a farm hand in the summer. Mr. Lynch was admitted to the bar in 1865,





after having studied with W. G. Harding, Esq. The following year he was elected register of wills, over Capt. H. M. Gordon (Rep.) Mr. Lynch served as councilman-at-large from 1871 to 1874, and as city attorney during 1873 and 1874. He was defeated in 1879 by Hon. C. E. Rice for the president judgeship of Luzerne County. Mr. Lynch being the candidate of the Greenback-labor party. Mr. Lynch was married in 1877 to Mary C., a sister of John T. Lenahan, Esq., and District Attorney James L. Lenahan. Mr. Lynch has been a diligent and conscientious practitioner and therefore richly merits the success which he has achieved in his profession. The nomination for Congress came to him unsolicited, having previously been declined by Judge Woodward and J. H. Swoyer. With Gen. Osborne as Congressman-at-Large, and John Lynch as Congressman, Luzerne County, will not be likely to be neglected in the distribution of Federal favors.

#### REPRESENTATIVE, (DEM.)

J. Ridgway Wright, elected to represent the First district, (City of Wilkes-Barre), in the Legislature is 30 years of age and is well and favorably known in this community, of which he is a native. He is a son of the late Harrison Wright, one of the most able practitioners at the Luzerne Bar, and a nephew of the late Hon. Hendrick B. Wright, who, after a distinguished career in politics and law, died in 1871. Mr. Wright's parental ancestors came from England in 1681 with William Penn's colony of Quaker immigrants, and founded the village of Wrightsville, Burlington County N. J. The first of the name, John Wright, held a commission of Justice of the Peace and captain of militia under the seal royal of King Charles II. Caleb Wright, a grandson of John, removed to the Susquehanna country in 1795 and settled near what is now Shickshinny, but returned to New Jersey in 1811, leaving here a son, Joseph, grandfather of the deceased. Joseph Wright was for many years a prominent and influential citizen of Plymouth, or, as that portion of the valley was formerly called, Shawnee. The Wrights were formerly Quakers, or Friends, and Joseph Wright always adhered to their faith and stern integrity, notwithstanding he had been dropped from the society for marrying outside the Quaker faith. He married Ellen, daughter of John Hendrick, and had three sons born of the union: the late Hon. Hendrick B. Wright being the oldest, with Caleb E. and Harrison as younger brothers, constituting a very distinguished trio of lawyers, Harrison being one of the most brilliant and eloquent advocates that ever practiced at the Luzerne county bar. He was honored by his fellow citizens with a seat in

the House of Representatives at Harrisburg, where he served with distinguished honor. He died in 1856 while yet in the prime and vigor of his manhood, having just turned his forty-first year. Mrs. Wright, the mother, was before marriage, Emily, daughter of Jacob Cist, her mother being Sarah, daughter of Judge Matthias Hollenback, an ensign, and one of the survivors of the bloody massacre that took place in front of Fort Wintermute on July 3, 1778. There was thus the blood of the English Quaker commingling with that of his persevering German forefathers (the Hollenbacks having come of German stock) in the veins of one who at a very early period of life manifested his love of learning in a marked degree.

J. Ridgway Wright is a graduate of Princeton College, class of 1879. After graduating he took the Western fever, in common with many others of our townsmen, and went to Leadville in company with Sylvanus Ayres, Jr., and Samuel Newhouse, both of this city, he established himself in the coal business, to which he associated that of prospecting. Mr. Wright remained in Leadville two years and then went to New Orleans, where he was engaged in selling mines. He subsequently returned to Leadville, remaining there a year, when he accepted the position of secretary of the Wheel of Fortune Mine and established himself in New York City. He afterwards resigned his secretaryship and came back to his home in this city, where he has resided ever since. On the death of his lamented brother, Harrison, he was elected to fill his place as secretary of the Wyoming Historical Society. He has taken a foremost part in local dramatic and musical circles, in the military (he is adjutant of the Ninth Regiment, N. G. P.) and has identified himself with many other movements calculated to advance the public welfare. He is deservedly popular and has hosts of friends.

#### SHERIFF, (DEM.)

Hendrick Wright Search is one of the rising—indeed, risen—men of the young Democracy. He was born in Shickshinny in 1854 and is a son of George W. Search, one of the most prominent citizens of the lower end.

He was educated at the public schools, and after graduating therefrom he entered the store of George W. & Lot Search, where he was continuously employed until the year 1882, when he was appointed clerk to the county commissioners. He served three years in this position and in 1885 became deputy clerk of the Orphans' Court, which place he has since filled acceptably to the court and the public. A year ago he married Miss Church, a charming young lady living in Ashland, his State, and who has since become a valued access on to Wilkes-





Barre's social circles. Nominated by acclamation, without opposition, and receiving the united support of his party, he is probably the most popular man who ever trained with the Luzerne Democracy.

RECORDER, (DEM.)

Joseph J. McGinty, of Ebervale, was born in Durham, England, of Irish parentage, in the year 1850. He came to America 23 years ago and has always lived about Ebervale. He has worked in the mines from boyhood up and his father was killed in them fifteen years ago, which catastrophe made Joseph the head and protector of the family. His loving care for his six younger brothers secured a fair education for them all, and for one a college training from which he has graduated to the Catholic priesthood.

Mr. McGinty has been identified with the several miners' associations that have from time to time existed in this region and has occupied practically every position of trust conferred by them. He was a delegate to the State Labor Convention in 1875 and to the labor convention at Cleveland last summer.

He has always been a consistent and hard working Democrat. He has held and acceptably filled local offices, but this is the first time he was ever a candidate for a county office.

CORONER, (DEM.)

Dr. John B. Mahon, one of Pittston's most reputable practitioners of the healing art, was born May 17, 1850, at Lake Winola, Wyoming County. The first fourteen years of his life were spent upon a farm. At the age of 14 he was apprenticed by voluntary indenture to the carpenter's trade. In this avocation he continued for four years, when at the age of 18 he passed an examination as a teacher. He had prepared himself by night study. He taught three winter terms of school in Wyoming County, the summers being spent in working at his trade. At 21 he applied and received the appointment of principal of one of the Plains graded schools, holding the position for several consecutive years, preparing himself at the same time for Jefferson Medical College, which, resigning his teachership, he entered in 1879, graduating in 1882. He has since devoted himself exclusively to his medical duties in Pittston, where he has achieved an extensive practice. At the municipal election last spring he was reelected a member of the School Board by a large majority, although the district in which he resides is strongly Republican. Dr. Mahon is a prominent member of the Luzerne County Medical Society, and probably nearly every Republican vote of that organization was cast for him.

SURVEYOR, (DEM.)

James Crockett is a farmer, surveyor and justice of the peace in Ross, and one of the best known men in the Second District. Everybody speaks of him as Squire Crockett and his court has been the scene of many exciting trials as most of the Quarter Sessions courts in the country. He is thoroughly honest and upright and well liked.

In 1824 the first river boat propelled by horse-power, arrived in Wilkes-Barre from Nescopeck. It was a wonder.

RECENT DEATHS.

DR. A. A. HODGE.

The sad news of the death of Rev. Dr. A. A. Hodge, of Princeton Theological Seminary, was received Nov. 12. Dr. Hodge preached a stirring sermon Sunday, Nov. 7 to the students at Princeton, feeling in the most vigorous health. The day was cold and wet, however, and Dr. Hodge caught a severe cold, which, settling on his kidneys, ended in his death on Thursday, Nov. 11. The three brothers of Dr. Hodge were present at his bedside, as the serious nature of his malady was known for several days previous to his death.

Dr. Archibald Alexander Hodge, A. M., D. D., LL. D., was born at Princeton, N. J., July 18, 1823, and was therefore midway between 63 and 64 years of age. He was graduated from the College of New Jersey in the class of 1841. After studying theology at the seminary he was ordained by the Presbytery of New Brunswick, N. J., in May, 1847, and in the fall of that year he married and went to Allahabad, India, as a missionary under the control of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions. Dr. Hodge remained at this post for three years, the failure of his health demanding his return in 1850. In that year he became pastor of a church at lower West Nottingham, Md., remaining in that charge for the ensuing five years. At the outbreak of the war Dr. Hodge was pastor of the First Presbyterian Church at Petersburg, Va., his pastoral relations with the congregation of that church being severed on the very day that marks the death of Rev. Dr. John Dorrance, then pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of this city.

A few months after Dr. Dorrance's death Dr. Hodge accepted a call to the church over which his brother, Dr. F. B. Hodge, is now pastor. In 1864, having been pastor in Wilkes-Barre for three years, Dr. Hodge was elected professor of Didactic and Polemic Theology in the Presbyterian Seminary at Allegheny City, where he remained until 1877. While holding this position Prof.





Hodge was for some years "stated supply" and installed pastor, severally, of the First Church of Pittsburgh, and of the North Church of Allegheny City.

In 1877 Prof. Hodge was called by Princeton Theological Seminary as Associate Professor of Theology, the full professorship being held by his father, the late Rev. Dr. Charles Hodge. In 1878 Dr. Charles Hodge died, and his mantle fell upon his son, who has held the position of Didactic and Polemic Professor of Theology since that time. Dr. Hodge has twice been married, and leaves a wife and two daughters. The funeral services will be held on Monday afternoon at Princeton.

The death of Dr. Hodge does not break the connection which has identified the name of Hodge with Princeton Seminary, Dr. Charles Hodge's eldest son, Casper Wister Hodge, being professor of New Testament Literature and Biblical Greek at that institution. This position he has held since 1860, and he is recognized among scholars as perhaps the superior of his brother in theological scholarship. The connection which is thus kept up with Princeton has subsisted since the matriculation of Dr. Charles Hodge in 1811.

Dr. F. B. Hodge has the tender sympathy of the many friends of his lamented brother in this city, the elder pastor being a great favorite, for his kindly, genial nature as well as for his deep learning.

#### L. D. STURDEVANT.

Leverius Dunning Sturdevant, one of the oldest and best known men of Wyoming County, died Friday, Nov. 12 at his home in Mehoopany. He came of one of the old Connecticut families whose names are so well known along the Susquehanna. He was born in 1804 at Braintrim, Wyoming County, where he passed the greater portion of his life, and to the development and prosperity of which he materially contributed. He was a kind husband and father, and a valued member of the community in which he lived, and particularly noted for the virtues of hospitality and neighborly kindness. Belonging to a past generation, with few living contemporaries, he yet, by his native force of character, maintained a leading position to the last, and leaves behind him the example of a uniformly upright life. His wife preceded him to the grave July 21 of last year, in her 76th year, the husband being her senior by five years. He was a brother of the late Major John Sturdevant and Gen. E. W. Sturdevant, of this city, and his surviving children are Col. Samuel H. Sinton, E. W. L. D., and Dunning Sturdevant and Mrs. W. F. Goff, of Wilkes-Barre; Mrs. F. B. Ames, Mrs. Jerome Swartwood, of Mehoopany, and Mrs. James M. Robinson, of Skinner's Eddy. His

wife's death, as noted in the RECORD at the time, was the first to break a very large family circle. All her eight children are married and have families of their own, yet of all this large number of kindred, exposed to the countless perils which threaten existence, and covering nearly a century in time, this godly mother in Israel was the first to be called hence.

#### BISHOP BOWMAN'S MOTHER.

James Bowman, of the firm Wells, Bowman & Co., was recently called upon to mourn the loss of his mother, whose death occurred on the 1st inst., at the home of her son, Bishop Thomas Bowman, in Allentown. The following interesting sketch is from the *Item* of that city:

Mrs. Elizabeth Bowman, widow of the late Jacob Bowman, was the daughter of Thomas Weiss, of Weissport, and was born Dec. 5, 1808. She was the mother of ten children. Three—Charles, John and Louisa—died in infancy. Those living are Mrs. Cornelius Snyder and Mrs. Perry Wannemacher, residing in Allentown; Mrs. Judge Levi Wentz, residing in Millport, Carbon Co.; Bishop Thomas Bowman, of Allentown; Capt. James Bowman, of Wilkes-Barre; W. W. Bowman, cashier of the First National Bank, at Lehigh. She had her home with Judge Wentz at the old homestead in Millport, but came to this city on a visit to her children the latter part of July. She was taken sick at the house of Bishop Thomas Bowman, and died after much suffering Nov. 1. Deceased had for many years been a devoted and consistent member of the Evangelical Association, and was beloved and highly respected by all who knew her. She died very peacefully and in the assurance of faith.

#### ORRILLA WALLER BEEBE.

[Montrose Republican.]

Orrilla Waller Beebe died at the residence of her son, E. L. Beebe at Franklin Forks, Susquehanna Co., Nov. 1, 1886, aged 93 years and 6 months. She was the last survivor of a large family of children. Her father, Nathan Waller, was one of the early settlers in Wyoming Valley, bringing his family there shortly after the war of the revolution, although he himself had been there before, but was temporarily away at time. He had three brothers-in-law killed in the Wyoming Massacre in 1778. Mrs. Beebe was the youngest but one of ten children. Her father left the valley with his family in 1809 and moved to the town of Windsor, Broome Co., N. Y., where he died several years after, leaving a fine farm on the Susquehanna river which fell into the hands of his oldest son, Phineas Waller, father of Dr. D. J. Waller, of Bloomsburg, and of the late Judge Waller and his brother, George, of Honesdale. The old Waller farm





in Windsor, where Mrs. Beebe spent her youthful days and a portion of her early married life, was one of the noted landmarks on the Susquehanna and is known by the same title yet by all the people in that and adjoining towns.

The subject of this sketch was born in Wilkes-Barre in April, 1793, and lived there until she was sixteen years of age, and went from there to Windsor with the rest of the family. The moving took from Monday morning until Saturday night, and the route was from Wilkes-Barre to Pittston, then up the Lackawanna to Scranton, and from there by way of Dundaff and Clifford and through Harford to New Milford, spending Friday night at Summersville in the old log tavern, a place well-known to all the early settlers of this and adjoining counties.

The family arrived at their journey's end in Windsor on Saturday, the distance being about sixty miles. The conveyance used in moving consisted of two two-horse teams, and two saddle horses, on which the girls, five in number, alternately rode and walked. Mrs. Beebe was united in marriage to her late husband, Harry Beebe, when twenty-four years of age. They spent a married life together of about fifty-eight years, raising a family of six children, four sons and two daughters. Her husband left her a widow in June, 1875.

The funeral was attended by a large congregation of those who had known her for more than half a century. Her remains were lowered to their last resting place in the little cemetery at Franklin Forks, by two sons and four grandsons acting as pall bearers.

#### JOHN WROTH.

An incident, none the less sad from the fact that it had been expected, was the death Tuesday, Nov. 16, of John Wroth, cashier of the Wyoming National Bank. Mr. Wroth was 48 years old, universally known, loved and respected, not only in Wilkes-Barre, but in a large circle of acquaintance at his former home. He had been ill with a complicated disease for more than two years. His malady had been of a character to elude diagnosis by eminent physicians and it was only recently that his suffering was found to be due to the presence of a tumor in the throat.

Mr. Wroth was born in Cecil County, Md., Sept. 22, 1838, and had therefore just entered on the 49th year of his life. His youth and early manhood were passed on his father's farm, where he was born. From the Cecil County farm Mr. Wroth went to Philadelphia, where he was employed for several years as a head accountant by the Empire Transportation Co. From this position he went into the coal shipping business. In 1874 Mr. Wroth came to Nanti-

coke and accepted the position of cashier offered to him by the late Washington Lee, who had established there a savings bank. A year later Mr. Wroth married Elizabeth Norton, daughter of Wm. B. Norton, Esq., a man prominent for many years in Wilkes-Barre. In 1876, owing to the death of Mr. Lee, the Nanticoke bank retired from business and Mr. Wroth came to Wilkes-Barre, in charge of his interests, and in 1884 he undertook the position of cashier of the Wyoming National Bank, holding it until death severed his connection with affairs of this world. Mr. Wroth leaves a wife and son, Bentley, a boy nine years of age. Mrs. Wroth holds an insurance policy of \$11,000 on her husband's life.

In addition to the loss which Mr. Wroth's many friends sustain by the death of one whose character was in a high degree lovable and worthy of emulation, the public suffers a genuine calamity. Mr. Wroth's business judgment, his skill and ingenuity and painstaking methods in accounts, have long been known and repected in this city. He was a man who was becoming closely identified with the interests of the town and whose character and abilities would have been of large advantage in our industrial growth. Mr. Wroth was a vestryman of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church and the funeral service was held at that church Thursday forenoon at 11 o'clock.

#### ISAAC RIPPLE.

Isaac Ripple, who died in White Haven on Oct. 31, was one of the most widely known and highly respected citizens of Luzerne and Carbon Counties. He was born in Hanover Township 80 years ago next February, and was a twin brother of Abram Ripple, who died in 1875, after amassing a large fortune. The brothers went from Wyoming Valley to the Lehigh region about 1835, where they had extensive contracts with the Lehigh Coal & Navigation Co., constructing the dams in the Lehigh, afterwards swept away by a great freshet. He first located at Mauch Chunk, where he married a Miss Conner, who survives him. About 1836 he went to White Haven, then a wilderness, bought a lot of the Navigation Co., cut down the trees and built a house, now the site of the White Haven Hotel at the railroad station, afterwards built by him. He was landlord of this hostelry for nearly 30 years, and it was a favorite stopping place for stage coaches between Wilkes-Barre and Philadelphia in the olden time. About 1868 he moved on a farm of 100 acres, lying just outside of White Haven, which he had cleared and which was one of the finest in Foster Township. He afterwards moved on an adjacent smaller farm where he died. He leaves an estate valued at about \$25,000. He was a Free





Mason and held nearly all the local positions of trust in communities in which he lived. He was regarded as an eminently upright and useful citizen. Besides his wife he is survived by a daughter, Elizabeth, widow of Theo. Smith, of White Haven; daughter Abi, wife of C. J. Shoemaker, of White Haven; daughter Alice, wife of Joseph Handlong, of Foster; daughters Anna and Clara, unmarried; Washington and George unmarried sons. Mayor Ezra H. Ripple, of Scranton, is a nephew. Among those present at the funeral were John Brown, of Easton; Jesse Lines, of Easton, now 80 years old, a boy with him in Hanover; Manus McGinty, of Wilkes-Barre and others. The sermon was by Rev. G. H. Day, a minister with whom he had become acquainted in White Haven in 1842, and who after the mutations of 46 years in the Methodist itineracy, is again stationed in White Haven. He was buried after the Masonic ritual by Laurel Lodge.

#### ROBERT M'D. SHOEMAKER.

At 1 pm. Nov. 22, Robert McDowell Shoemaker died at his residence in Forty Fort, aged 74 years. He had been ill for the past six months with a rheumatic affection, which, coupled with a general failing of the vital forces, culminated in his death.

Deceased was a son of Col. Elijah Shoemaker, a prominent man in Wyoming in his day and generation. His great-grandfather, Benj. Shoemaker, emigrated from the banks of the Delaware (now Monroe County) to Wyoming in 1763, but as the attempted settlement was crushed by the Indians in that year he returned from whence he came and never came back. The grandfather of deceased, also Elijah, was among the Connecticut settlers who located at Wyoming in 1776. Two years later he lost his life in the massacre of Wyoming. He was survived by an infant son, also named Elijah, father of deceased. This infant was born May 20, 1778, his mother being Jane McDowell, daughter of John, of what is now Monroe County. The paternal name was bestowed upon deceased. We quote from Kulp's "Families of Wyoming Valley:"

"Elijah, during the pendency of the disputes as to the title to the land of the valley, cleared a portion of that which he had purchased with money left him by his father of the Susquehanna Company, built an unpretentious habitation, and engaged in farming in a small way. It was while his affairs were in this condition that the grandfather [of deceased] was born and the massacre of Wyoming occurred; wherein he acted as lieutenant in the little band of patriots, and was slain. The widow and her babe were left in very poor circumstances, for practically everything in their little home had

been carried off or destroyed by the British and savages."

On his mother's side deceased's grandfather was Col. Nathan Denison, whose marriage in 1769, with Elizabeth Sill, is historic, having been the first nuptial knot tied in Wyoming Valley. From this marriage came Lazarus Denison, father of the late Charles Denison, Esq., and the name is handed down to Hon. L. D. Shoemaker, a brother of deceased. Mr. Shoemaker's death occurred upon the same fruitful acres that have been in the family for more than a century and which were paid for, not only with hard earned treasure, but with the life blood of a distinguished ancestor.

Deceased was born Feb. 12, 1812, and passed the whole of his life in the vicinity of Forty Fort. He was educated in the old Wilkes-Barre Academy and in his early manhood entered the mercantile business at Forty Fort, and retained his interest therein until some 12 or 15 years ago, when he retired from all active business and devoted himself to his farming interests. His disposition was quiet and retiring. Though a staunch Republican, he took no active participation in politics and never held or sought any public office or trust. He was widely known and universally esteemed throughout the valley as a man of generous and refined nature, of the strictest integrity and in his earlier years of great industry.

He was the fourth son of Col. Elijah Shoemaker, who had six sons and three daughters. Of this family but two are now living, Hon. L. D. Shoemaker, of this city, and Caroline, wife of Dr. Levi Ives, of New Haven, Conn. Dr. Ives was in attendance in consultation with local physician a short time before Mr. Shoemaker's decease.

He leaves one son, Robert, now superintendent for several collieries of the Lehigh Valley Coal Co., who resides on North River Street, in this city, and is esteemed as one of the most efficient and energetic men connected with the company. The funeral took place on Friday at 2 pm. from the late residence, the interment being made in Forty Fort cemetery.

#### R. R. SNOWDEN.

The many friends of Rev. E. Hazard Snowden, the oldest Presbyterian clergyman in Wyoming Valley, will be sorry to hear that he has recently sustained the loss of a much loved brother, Col. Robert Ralston Snowden. His death occurred Nov. 14, in Memphis, Tenn., in which city he had carried on the mercantile business for the last 12 or 15 years. Col. Snowden was in the 77th year of his age and was a prominent and honored citizen of the once fever-stricken city along the Mississippi, though he never flinched when the yellow fever was decimat-





ing the city's populace. His death occurred at the residence of his nephew, Col. Robert Bogardus Snowden. The latter was a gallant officer in the Confederate army, and was a grandson of Gen. Robert Bogardus, of New York.

Deceased was born at New Hartford, N. Y., and was the eighth child of Rev. Samuel Finley Snowden, out of whose family of 10 children, three are living—Rev. E. Hazard Snowden, of Luzerne County; Arthur Henry Snowden, a merchant in Stratford, Conn., and James Anderson Snowden, a planter in Arkansas. His wife died some years ago and he is survived by only one child, a married daughter.

The grandfather of deceased, Isaac Snowden, was a prominent Philadelphian during the Revolutionary war and at one time was treasurer of the city and county of Philadelphia. He was so pronounced a Whig that his presence was particularly obnoxious to the British during their occupancy of Philadelphia and he and his family were compelled to seek safety in the country. He was a large owner of real estate in the city of Philadelphia.

Isaac Snowden had five sons, all of whom were graduated from Princeton College, and four of whom were ministers—Rev. Samuel Finley Snowden, who took the class honors and who became the first pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Princeton; (he was the father of deceased and of Rev. E. Hazard Snowden); Gilbert, who preached at Cranberry, N. J., and who was a fine extempore speaker; Charles and Nathaniel, the latter located at Pittsburgh and Harrisburg.

Of Rev. Samuel Finley Snowden's family, Mary Cox married Dr. Roswell P. Hayes, and was the mother of Hon. Samuel Snowden Hayes, an eminent Chicago lawyer, politician and friend of Stephen A. Douglas, though he once worsted the latter in a public debate in Chicago during the agitation of the Missouri Compromise, the populace by an overwhelming vote sustaining Mr. Hayes' opposition to the revocation of the Compromise. The other children of Rev. S. F. Snowden were Samuel Breese, E. H., (living), Arthur Henry, (living), Susan Breese, James Anderson, John Bayard, Robert Ralston, (just deceased), Sydney Breese and Elizabeth Breese.

#### Survey for Kingston.

[From MSS. collection of Hon. Steuben Jenkins.]

A road laid out by Silas Bingham, William Buck, John Perkins, Timothy Smith, Reuben Davis and John Jenkins, who were appointed a committee for that purpose on the 25th of May, 1770. After looking and viewing for some time we begun on Shawnee line about 20 rods east of Toby's Creek, at a saxafrax stake on the east side of a road,

which we laid six rods wide. Thence we ran north 45 degrees east, about  $2\frac{3}{4}$  miles to a small white oak staddle on the north side of the town plot, thence N. 35 minutes E. 246 rods to a saxafrax stake on the north side of Abraham's Creek; thence N. 70 degrees E. 172 rods to a walnut stake; thence N. 46 degrees E. 53 rods to a black oak stake; thence N. 50 degrees E. about 1 mile to the town line, of Kingston and Exeter.

#### Some Newspaper Clippings.

[From Republican Farmer, W-B., Oct. 20, 1839.]

##### SUSQUEHANNA LINE.

This line has commenced running regularly between Wilkes-Barre, Northumberland, Williamsport, Harrisburg and Philadelphia and intermediate places. The boats leave Wilkes-Barre daily at 2 o'clock pm. and arrive at Northumberland every morning at  $7\frac{1}{2}$  o'clock and at Harrisburg the following evening at 9 o'clock, where passengers will remain over night and take the railroad cars next morning for Philadelphia, &c—through in 48 hours from Wilkes-Barre.

Fare to Northumberland.....	\$2.00
" " Harrisburg .....	4.00
" " Philadelphia .....	8.00

For freight or passage apply to

P. McC. Gilchrist, Phoenix Hotel,

Wilkes-Barre, May 7, 1839.

[In our days of "apprenticeship," cheap fuel and rapid transit such things seem very antiquated. Will the next half century bring communism, a new caloric and aerial yachts?]

##### RUNAWAY APPRENTICE.

In the Wilkes-Barre papers of that day such advertisements as the following appear, accompanied by a picture of a little fellow galloping off with a bundle tied to a stick and thrown over the shoulder:

"SIX CENTS REWARD.—Ran away from the subscriber on the 12th inst., James Pringle, an indentured apprentice to the farming business, he was about 14 years of age, of light complexion, he had on when he went away butterput colored pantaloons, and frock coat, all persons are forbid harboring or trusting him on any account as no charges will be paid.

ISAAC SMITH.

Exeter Township, April 9th. 1836."

##### COAL FIFTY YEARS AGO.

[From Republican Farmer, Dec. 2, 1835.]

A CARD.—I am now ready to deliver coal to the citizens of Wilkes-Barre at the following prices, viz:

At the shute,	
Lump coal, per ton of 2,240 lbs.....	\$1 25
Broken coal and raked.....	1 12
Fine coal without screening.....	75
Lime burner's coal per bushel $1\frac{1}{2}$ cents,	
and 25 cents per ton additional for hauling.	

ALEXANDER GRAY,

Agent for Thomas Symington,  
Wilkes-Barre, Oct. 27, 1835.





## Wilkes-Barre Schools Fifty Years Ago.

[Contributed by G. H. R. Plumb.]

The following references to early educational facilities in Luzerne County will be interesting, not only to the oldest generation now living, but to their children, in whose minds the experiences of their parents in those early days wear the glamor of mystical heroism. The elder Dr. Miner's letter shows the spirit of most of those of his generation, but with all their attempts they failed to repair the old academy to any extent. Very likely it was owing to the exceedingly hard times following the financial policy of the Government, and also that emigration to the Western States was in everybody's mind.

The fact that there was a female seminary here so long ago is not generally known among the younger people. "Wyoming Seminary," another institution for females contemporaneous with the former, was conducted by the Misses Perry, also, in Wilkes-Barre, having courses of study and expenses not quite so high.

Is it not a little singular that the enterprise which reared and sustained three such institutions under such circumstances should have languished and been succeeded by an apparently ineradicable stigma of "old foggyism?" If it has resulted from the systems of instruction and discipline that they practiced, our posterity will have abundance of opportunity in the future to rid themselves of such shackles through the influence of "object lessons," "kindergartens" and "industrial schools."

## AN APPEAL FOR THE OLD ACADEMY.

[Excerpts from a letter by Dr. Thomas W. Miner in *Republican Farmer*, April 20, 1836, John Atherholt, Printer and Publisher.]

"As the old academy is no longer fit for use but sinking into ruinous dilapidation, the question forces itself upon us—shall we let it go? . . . We might point with pride to numbers of men in active life at home and abroad, who adorn the professions in which they are engaged—at the sacred altar—in the army—at the bar and in other employments who owe to the academy here the best part of the education which has rendered them useful, successful and distinguished. . . . It is firmly believed that no institution of the kind in the State, during a number of years past, has performed the purposes of its establishment more effectively. . . . Not the citizens of the borough or vicinity alone, then, are concerned in having a first-rate academy at Wilkes-Barre, but also the whole county. . . . Shall it be said that the institution which our fathers reared when the county was yet new and money scarce, and with which so many honorable names are associated, as Scott, Mallory,

Greenough, Dyer, Denison, Beaumont, Joseph, and Joel Jones, and I may be pardoned if I add C. Miner, shall be neglected and decay without an effort on our part to hold fast the benefits that have resulted to us? . . . And now with double the wealth and treble the population is there not public spirit enough in the county to preserve it? Is there no reason to suppose that, when the public improvements now in a state of advancement shall be completed and the valley rendered easily accessible that this will become a place of resort by the intelligent traveler from Europe as well as those of own country? . . . A flourishing academy, the tuition being moderate, would bring from 40 to 50 boarders to the town; the shoemaker would of course be called on for shoes, and the tailor and merchant in their callings; boarding houses would be employed, and the farmer have new demand for his produce."

The Wilkes-Barre Female Seminary was opened during the latter years of the existence of the academy. It was on "River" Street, only shortly before changed to that name from "Bank" Street. The appended advertisement is in the *Republican Farmer* for April 24, 1839:

## WILKES-BARRE FEMALE SEMINARY.

This institution will be open on the first Wednesday in May for the reception of pupils. The course of study will embrace three years, including the primary class, each year consisting of two terms of 22 weeks each. . . .

The course will embrace the following studies:

## PRIMARY CLASS.

1st Term—Orthography, reading, writing, grammar, geography, arithmetic, history, composition, etc., etc.

2d Term—Studies of the preceding term reviewed and continued; outline of history, natural philosophy.

## JUNIOR CLASS.

1st Term—Grammar, arithmetic, history, geography, rhetoric with a reference to composition, physiology.

2d Term—Grammar, chemistry, intellectual philosophy, geography of the heavens, algebra, logic and composition.

## SENIOR CLASS.

1st Term—Algebra continued, logic, Euclid, Abercrombie on Moral Feelings, astronomy, history, composition.

2d Term—Euclid, moral science, Evidence of Christianity, Butler's Analogy, chemistry, geology. . . .

## TERMS.

For board, lights, fuel, etc., with tuition in English branches, \$75 per term.

For tuition of day pupils in English branches, \$6 per quarter.





Washing per dozen .....	.50
For tuition in French, .....	\$5.00
"    "    Drawing and Painting. ....	4.00
"    "    Music.....	3.00
Use of Piano.....	2.00
Provision will be made for instruction in Latin and Greek without any additional charge to the pupil.	

The department of Education will be under the direction of Miss F. M. Woodworth. The Seminary is delightfully situated on the bank of the Susquehanna.

#### State Historical Society Reception.

Some of our local antiquarians received invitations to the fall reception of the Pennsylvania Historical Society, in Philadelphia on Thursday Nov. 11. The affair was in charge of a committee of two, consisting of Messrs. F. D. Stone and F. H. Williams. All of the rare historical treasures of the society were thrown open for the inspection of the guests. The reception continued from eight o'clock until twelve. A luncheon was served at half-past nine. Among the prominent persons present were: Hon. Thomas H. Dudley, Assistant Bishop Whitaker, Dr. William R. Dunton, Edward Shippen, John Jordan, Jr., Charles Spencer, Engineer George W. Melville (the Arctic explorer), S. Grant Smith, George M. Conarroe, Counsellor John I. Clark, H. S. Morris, Horatio Gates Jones, James B. Sword and others.

#### AN EVENTFUL CAREER.

**A Native of Wilkes-Barre Who Passed Through Two Wars, Was Attacked With Chagres Fever in South America, Narrowly Escaped Assassination in Missouri and Finally Met Death by Accident.**

The Rochester *Union and Advertiser* has an interesting biographical sketch of our former townsman, W. R. Loop, whose death by accident has already been noted in the RECORD. His career was so eventful that we believe our readers will be glad to peruse such portions of it as we can make room for:

At St. Louis at the breaking out of the Mexican War, he enlisted as a private, continuing in the army until the end of the war. He was in the regiment under Col. Donophan when the famous march was made under Gen. Kearney from St. Louis to Santa Fe. This was in 1846. The regiment was disbanded at Santa Fe, the soldiers finding their way back to St. Louis on foot in squads of six to ten. Soon after his return to St. Louis he embarked in the mercantile business with a Mr. Brand (a creole.) The business was continued until the great fire, about 1849, when he was joined by his brother Edward. This was the year that

the cholera prevailed to such an alarming extent, very many persons fleeing from the city. Not so with Loop. He remained perseveringly, attending to his business, striving and succeeding in paying his debts, though the insurance companies paid him only 50 cents on the dollar, the severity of their losses compelling them in this course. These were blue times for Loop; he paid his debts, but only had enough money remaining to purchase him an outfit for a journey across the plains in 1850 to California, which was coming into notice about this time. He made the journey with five companions, on foot, having ox teams to carry their luggage. The panic of 1851 being precipitated soon after he returned from California, and in order to economize he shipped as a common sailor before the mast, down the Pacific coast to Nicaragua, thence through the Nicaragua river and lake to Greytown, where he had a violent attack of the Chagres fever caused by exposure in the rainy season, under a burning sun. From Greytown he took the steamer Daniel Webster to New York, being only just alive when the steamer arrived. On recovering from this tedious and dangerous illness, lasting the entire winter, he found his way to Hannibal, Mo., where he was employed by Mr. I. R. Selms, an old and highly respected merchant. Here he purchased a nice residence and had his mother and sister with him. He remained at Hannibal until the exciting secession times (preceding the Rebellion) staunchly maintaining his character of a Union man, loving his country and willing to make any sacrifice. It will be remembered that Union men, living on the borders between the Northern, or free States, and the Southern, or slaves States, were in most trying positions. No one probably suffered more for his loyalty than Mr. Loop.

The men treated him cruelly, and the women pointed their fingers at him in scorn and derision in the streets. Yet he was not to be swerved a hair's breadth from the line of duty, as he understood it. An acquaintance came near to him one day in his place of business, when suddenly, without warning of any kind, gave him a violent blow on the head with a brick, evidently intending to kill him. He concluded after this occurrence that it was not safe for him to remain there, so he severed his connection with Mr. Selms, much to the sorrow and regret of the latter, himself a Union man, who was ruined by the hatred of the Secessionists, and compelled a short time after Mr. Loop's departure to go himself. On leaving Hannibal, Loop came east, visiting Wilkes-Barre, Pa., the home of his childhood. It was there that he enlisted among the "Emergency Men" at the call of the State government in the summer of 1863. After being mustered





out of service on this occasion he returned to Wilkes-Barre, and after a very brief period he enlisted again, this time at the call of the general government, for three years of the war in the 143d regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers. This regiment was in the brigade, which was under the lamented Gen. Wadsworth, which went through the battles in Virginia. On the seventh day of the nine days' battle of the Wilderness he (Loop) received a bullet through his hip, which wounded him so severely that he was incapacitated for severe manual labor during the remainder of his life. He was taken to the Douglas Hospital in Washington and from there he was transferred to the City Hospital in Rochester. He continued to reside here up to the day of his death, which occurred within one day of his sixty-fifth birthday. An exemplary Christian, a faithful, loving son, brother and friend, his like will not soon be found again.

#### COLONIAL SECRETARY THOMPSON.

##### The Supposed Stealing of His Body and the Excitement Which was Created—A Man Who Figured Prominently in Continental Affairs.

A recent issue of the *Philadelphia Evening Bulletin* contained an article by Dr. James J. Levick, of Philadelphia, on "The Harriton Cemetery," an ancient private burying ground near Bryn Mawr, the paper giving details of an incident which agitated the community intensely half a century ago. It appears that the property passed in 1719 from Rowland Ellis, a noted Friend minister, to the Harrison family, who had come from Maryland, the locality soon coming to be called Harriton. Richard Harrison provided by will for the reservation of two acres of his ground in Merton Township as a Friends' meeting house and burial place forever, the will bearing date of 1746. The cemetery is now a neglected little plot, enclosed by a stone wall, within which are 20 or more graves, marked and unmarked. Signboards offer a reward of \$20 for arrest of trespasses who injure the property. The writer goes on to relate how these signs came to be placed there. In 1824 was buried here Charles Thompson, son-in-law of Harrison, the founder. He was an Irishman, an American patriot, and being, what was rare in those early days, a short-hand writer he was chosen secretary of the Stamp Act Congress in New York, in 1765. He was unanimously elected secretary of the Continental Congress throughout its existence and was secretary of the first House of Representatives. It was he who officially notified Washington of his election to the Presidency. He was called "the Sam. Adams of Philadelphia, the life of the cause of lib-

erty." After his remains had been peacefully mouldering in the tumble-down burying ground of Harriton it was discovered that his grave had been opened and the body removed. The newspapers condemned the offence and reward were offered for the perpetrators. This soon brought out a letter from a nephew of Charles Thompson, that out of respect of memory of his uncle and after consultation with the relatives he had caused the remains to be removed to a more suitable place, a new cemetery known as Laurel Hill, and a granite monument to be erected. The affair caused great excitement, but the public finally acquiesced in the removal and it became forgotten. Dr. Levick's narrative is mainly new matter and is intensely interesting. Mr. Thompson spent his declining years in study of the bible, he having made an original translation of the Septuagint and the New Testament.

#### The Osterhout Free Library.

The will of the late Isaac S. Osterhout, who provided so munificently for the establishment of a free library in Wilkes-Barre, stipulated that no steps should be taken until five years have expired. This limit will be reached next spring and the trustees are casting about for some plan to pursue when the time for action shall arrive. A meeting was held by them last week, at which time a distinguished public library specialist was present, Mr. Melvil Dewey, of New York, professor of Library Economy in Columbia College, consulting librarian of Wellesley College, secretary of the American Library Association, editor of the *Library Journal*, etc., etc. The ground was carefully gone over with this gentleman and his views had. It will be remembered that an arrangement has already been made for the purchase of the Presbyterian Church property on Franklin Street, though possession cannot be had under a year or so, or at least until the congregation shall be able to worship in some portion of their handsome edifice now in course of construction a few doors below, at the corner of Franklin and Northampton Streets.

It has been expected that the old church would be demolished and a library building erected on the site, but Mr. Dewey advises against such a course, at least for the present. His suggestion is that the trustees can as yet form no adequate idea of the extent to which such a library would be patronized and that should there prove to be little demand, any great outlay for an expensive building or for an immense collection of books would be undesirable. He recommends that the interior of the church edifice be converted into a library, this to be done without any considerable outlay, and that the books be purchased by degrees, or as





rapidly as the demand seems to warrant. After a few years of such a trial the building proper could be constructed and properly supplied with books. The church being in excellent condition, Prof. Dewey's suggestion would seem to be an eminently practical one. His suggestion also implies the use of such a portion of the interior as may be necessary for the reception of the collection of the Wyoming Historical Society and the use of the present Sunday school room for meetings of the society. Mr. Dewey's plan would not at once add a handsome building to our city, but would ultimately lead to this desired result.

#### Caleb E. Wright, Esq.'s New Book.

Our readers will pleasurably recall a couple of historical novels from the pen of our former townsman, Caleb E. Wright, Esq., of the Luzerne bar, now of Doylestown. In 1864 Harpers published his "Wyoming, A Tale," an octavo pamphlet of 123 pages, and in 1873 J. B. Lippincott & Co. published his "Marcus Blair. A Story of Provincial Times. Written for the Young. With Illustrations," 12 mo., pp. 165.

Now we have another volume from his nimble pen, entitled "On the Lackawanna. A Tale of Northern Pennsylvania." It is printed at Doylestown and is dedicated to his life-long friend and companion on the trout streams, Edward Dolph, of Scranton. All through, the book suggests the dark forests where trout abound, and there are numerous pen pictures of woods life which must have been actual experiences of this hardy fisherman, who even yet visits the trout streams of old Luzerne as regularly as the seasons. The volume comprises 253 pages and, as its title implies, has for its scene the Lackawanna-Wyoming region. It is a tale of the troublous time when the Yankee and Pennamite contest for the soil of Wyoming vexed the souls of our ancestors and even spread desolation and death throughout this beautiful valley. It is a love story—for what purpose is it to write unless one weaves a tale of love? It opens, perhaps about 1780, certainly before 1782, with a thrilling forest fire in the mountains of the Lackawanna valley, and the meeting under a stone arch bridge (the only place of safety) of two fugitives, strangers to each other, a young man and a young woman, he a Pennsylvanian, she a Yankee, who has run away from her Connecticut home. The stone arch bridge, at so early a day, is rather a bold creation of the novelist, but then a writer of fiction must be permitted something by way of poetic license. They become separated while on the way to Capouse Meadows, and she loses herself along the Nayaug. After

wandering four days she is found half dead and given shelter by a Connecticut family. The pater domo intercepts a letter from her old home begging her to return, as a relative has died, leaving her the heir to the estate, it to revert after her death to another relative, who happens to be the man under whose roof she is now being nursed back to life. He determines upon making way with her by poison, but fails, she having been warned by a red-headed urchin who figures conspicuously in the narrative. Two other unsuccessful murderous attempts are subsequently made. Shortly after she is ordered under arrest by Col. John Franklin on suspicion of being a Pennamite spy. The evidence consists of a package found in her possession, addressed to Alexander Patterson, then in command of Wilkes-Barre fort. Her enemy inflames the Connecticut settlers with whisky and lies and an attempt is made by them to hang the suspect to the nearest tree. An old Quaker interposes and the tragedy is prevented, the crowd consenting to a trial, with an old Hollander as judge. She proves her Connecticut extraction and explains that the package was slipped into her hands by her unknown companion just before he left her, they having been fired at from an ambush. She is speedily transformed from a spy to a heroine. Col. Franklin makes an announcement which thrills her. Her new friend is a prisoner in the hands of Patterson, at Wilkes-Barre, and is to be shot on the accusation of embezzling certain funds committed to his care by the State authorities, to be delivered to Patterson, the mysterious package already alluded to. She determines to rescue him, a feat which she is enabled to do, aided by the red-headed boy, who paddled his passengers down the Lackawanna and Susquehanna to Wilkes-Barre fort, where they got the sentinel drunk and then easily rescued the prisoner. The contests between the Yankees and the Pennamites wax warmer, acquaintance kindles into love and the reader cannot fail to become intensely absorbed by Mr. Wright's interesting narrative. Names of familiar pioneers are here and there introduced, not forgetting the first physician of the Lackawanna region, Dr. Joseph Sprague. The author's bent of mind is strikingly seen in every chapter. Sometimes it is a little glimpse of the glories of angling for trout, again it is a flash of his legal acumen, and still again it is a touch of that religious fervor which has always made the author a leader in the church of his choice. The spirit and purpose of the book is excellent. It is a valuable contribution to the literature of the region and Mr. Wright may well entertain a just pride in being its author.





# The Historical Record

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION

DEVOTED PRINCIPALLY TO

## The Early History of Wyoming Valley

AND CONTIGUOUS TERRITORY

WITH

## NOTES AND QUERIES

BIOGRAPHICAL, ANTIQUARIAN, GENEALOGICAL



EDITED BY F. C. JOHNSON, M. D.

Vol. 1]

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DECEMBER 1886

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[No. 4.

WILKES-BARRE, PA.

Press of The Wilkes-Barre Record

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# *The Historical Record.*

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## *The Historical Record,*

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

Devoted principally to the early history of Wyoming Valley and contiguous territory, with Notes and Queries, Biographical, Antiquarian and Genealogical. The HISTORICAL RECORD was started September, 1886, and each number consists of twenty-four large pages, with wide margin. Subscription, \$1.50 per year, payable in advance. Single Copies, 15 cents.



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# The Historical Record

VOL. I.

DECEMBER, 1886.

No. 4.

## FUGITIVES FROM THE SLAUGHTER.

**A Narrative of Pioneer Suffering, Never before Published Here, Hair Breadth Escapes From the Savages.**

In Wyoming's centennial year (1778), the gentlemen having in charge the event were the recipients of numerous interesting historical communications from persons in some way identified with the valley, but not able to be present at the exercises. All these are now in the custody of the Wyoming Commemorative Association, and one of them has been furnished by Secretary Wesley Johnson for publication in the RECORD. It is an obituary of one of the fugitives from the slaughter, and was accompanied with an explanatory letter to Hon. Steuben Jenkins at Wyoming, from John L. Davison, Lockport, N. Y., a grandson of deceased. He says her maiden name was Elizabeth Fitchet, and that her husband was John Davison the son of John. The John D. Davison mentioned in the letter was the father of John L. Davison, the fourth bearing the name of John. The obituary was taken from the *Theresa Chronicle*, Jefferson Co., N. Y., of May 5, 1848, and is (somewhat condensed) as follows:

### DEATH OF MRS. ELIZABETH DAVISON.

The above named lady departed this life on the evening of Tuesday, the 2nd instant, in the 87th year of her age, at the residence of her daughter in this village.

Mrs. Davison was a native of Poughkeepsie, from whence she removed with her parents to Pennsylvania at the period of the Revolution, and resided at the time of the massacre at Wyoming at a small settlement about six miles from that ill fated town.

The news of that lamentable event warned the settlers of the village, consisting of nine families, of which Mrs. Davison's formed one, of the dangerous situation they were in. Accordingly they lost no time in endeavoring to seek out a more secure abode, and after undergoing fatigue and hunger for nine days they were captured by a party of Indians and Tories and reconducted to their abandoned homes. Here their captors, whose business was plunder, after having selected the most commodious and sumptuous residence, set up life in a princely style, compelling their prisoners to perform all the menial offices of their household.

On one occasion a party of the Indians, returning hungry, ordered the captives to slaughter a pig and prepare them a supper. Preparation being hastened with all possible dispatch, the father of Mrs. Davison, employed, as desired by the savage leader, in dressing the food, a tall Indian standing in front of him, offered his hand in friendly greeting—another at the same moment planting himself in the rear of his intended victim with his tomahawk lifted as if to give the fatal blow, while the first savage attempted to seize the knife with which the prisoner was employed. A struggle ensued for the weapon, in which the savage disarming his foe, fell with the impetus of his own weight. Regaining his feet, the furious Indian sprang upon his prisoner, aiming the fatal plunge at his breast. The distracted daughter, who had remained till this moment, saw no more, but fled with the arrow's speed, and reported the supposed murder of her father in the rendezvous of her party—and then with the spirit of extermination aroused in her agonized breast, she procured a quantity of onions, a vegetable of which the Indians were known to be fond. Slicing them, she mingled with them a quantity of arsenic, and took her way to their place of banqueting to share the sad fate of her father, or destroy the savages. But their supper was ended and the banqueters gone on some new expedition of mischief. Where the girl had expected to find the mangled corpse of her father, no trace of him was to be met with, but during the ensuing night his party were gladdened by his return free from harm. Having eluded the savage who had been intent on having his scalp, he kept himself secreted till their departure.

On another occasion, accompanying a distressed wife, whose absent husband, it was feared, had fallen a victim to the violence of the times, to her deserted cabin on some necessary errand, the sorrowing woman fell upon her knees and addressed her petitions with such fervor to the God of battles for the preservation and safe return of her husband as to inspire the trembling girl, who had never heard prayer uttered in that fervent manner till then, with a sympathetic confidence with the poor wife, that the Supreme Disposer of events would not only restore the absent husband, but in due time rescue the suffering band of captives, whose





lives were suspended as upon the breath of a savage brigand.

"And when on the following morning," to use the impressive language of the deceased, "I saw Thomas Paine for whose preservation his wife had so fervently prayed, the only survivor of a scout of sixty chosen men, ascend from the river bank in his saturated apparel and rush to the embrace of his joyful companion, I claimed no further evidence that the eternal Jehovah took cognizance of and superintended the affairs of men."

The discovery of a barrel of spirits, which had been hidden in an adjoining field of wheat on the flight of its proprietor, led to the escape of the captives and consequent breaking up of this Tory rendezvous. The intoxicating beverage being distributed among the reckless band aroused the slumbering fiend in their fierce nature. A plot was formed in their drunken councils for the massacre, during the ensuing night, of all the prisoners in their possession, and but for the vigilance of Elizabeth, whose favor with the chief gave her assurance sometimes to mingle with his Tory court, the whole captive party must have shared the awful fate of their neighbors of Wyoming. Suspecting that all was not right, the heroic girl, taking advantage of the friendship of a young Indian girl, won the important secret; and then, acting in concert with the young squaw, locked it close in her own breast till the captives had retired with their children to their allotted "caboose" for the night, and the precise time had arrived when the frenzy of the savages had subsided into more helpless intoxication, she informed her party of their danger, who noiselessly and successfully stole from their drunken guard, took a new direction through the forest, and finally eluded their pursuers. Though in momentary apprehension of a recapture, or a scarcely more dreaded death that seemed inevitable from exposure or starvation, the hopes of this hunted party seemed not to be broken till on the third day of their second flight, the arrival of Col. Butler, with a force of 375 men, to their inexpressible relief, dispersed the brigands and garrisoned Fort Wilkes-Barre for the protection of the defenceless.

The father of Mrs. Davison, having suffered so severely from the depredations of the Tories, resolved to quit so insecure an abode. Accordingly, he set out immediately with his family, consisting of eight children, all of whom were under sixteen years of age, to return to Poughkeepsie, whither the mother of these children had some time preceded them. They had now a distance of some two hundred miles to traverse. The cattle, with the goods secured upon the

backs of the oxen, were given in charge of the heroic Elizabeth, now but seventeen years of age, who, without shoes and with no other covering for her head than a man's hat, and in three places gashed with a tomahawk, entered on her charge. When arrived at the Lehigh, Elizabeth with her cattle had no means of crossing but by fording, and being at a distance from her party, who crossed a few miles below upon fallen timber, was thrown upon the resources of her own invention for a mode of subduing the difficulty. Directing her cattle into the stream, which, to use her own language, "was as orderly as a company of soldiers," with the exception of the heifer, which she claimed as her private property, this animal she retained by regaling it with salt, with which her pocket was furnished for the use of her little herd, she watched the progress of the others till they were safely over, and then grasping her heifer by the tail with her right hand, directing the animal into the stream, holding a parcel containing her clothing above her head in her left hand resolved, in her own words, "if I must be drowned, to die with my heifer." But the strong and active beast, instinctively carrying its head above the surface, buffeted the current strongly, notwithstanding the burden of its struggling mistress, and both were soon in safety on the opposite shore.

On one of the last days of her journey Elizabeth in addition to her other charge, bore her little brother of two years of age sixteen miles upon her back.

At length the toilworn party arrived at their destination in August, 1778. Refugees bereft of home and possessions, the evils of destitution and want, reared their formidable front to menace the happiness of this sorely tried family. Yet, Elizabeth and her sisters procured employment in the families of their more wealthy neighbors, and thereby assisted their parents with the price of the labor of their hands, to retrieve their fallen fortunes. It was while thus employed that Elizabeth met her future husband in the person of a continental soldier, who became some few months later her companion for fifty-two years of wedded felicity.

The subject of this sketch was the mother of thirteen children, four boys and nine girls, most of whom are living. She has lived to see sons occupy honorable stations in the government she had seen in its infancy struggling for independence, and like other mothers of the Revolution, will remain engraved upon the memory as a monument of female patriotism and greatness. It would be well for the girls of the present day to read this sketch and profit by the example of this departed relic of the Revolu-





tion. We are indebted to her son, Hon. John D. Davison, of this village, for many interesting incidents of her life, which we shall publish at some future day. Also to Mrs. Alvin Hunt, to whose able pen we are mostly indebted for this interesting sketch of the deceased.

[The narrative is interesting, but cannot be relied upon for historical accuracy, as is to be expected when it be remembered that it is the recollection of her childhood days by a woman in the extremity of age and who had never afterward lived among the scenes and people of her early frontier home. As narrated to her children the incidents would naturally be magnified by those who transcribe them, from a pardonable desire to graphically portray the difficulties through which she had passed. Such family traditions are always interesting, but must be taken with a grain of allowance. For example, it is highly improbable that any family in those days had "arsenic," nor is it likely that in the preparation for flight the fugitive would have been cool enough to carry a supply of salt for the pet heifer which was to save her life. Another difficulty presents itself as to the names. That of Davison does not appear anywhere in our local histories. Nor does that of Fitchet, though Fitch is a familiar name. The reference to Col. Butler as returning with a force of men, dispersing the Indians and garrisoning Fort Wilkes-Barre, is also a confusion of fact. If any of our readers are in possession of information that will throw light on the families mentioned they will confer a favor by addressing the RECORD.—EDITOR.]

#### In Memory of Harrison Wright.

A most interesting volume has just been issued by the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society, the third in the "Proceedings and Publications" of that organization. It is a pamphlet of 128 pages and is a memorial to the late Dr. Harrison Wright, its recording secretary, whose death occurred last year. The book is given an additional value by the insertion of an admirable phototype of Dr. Wright, which is strikingly life-like. About half of the contained matter is taken up with a biographical sketch by George B. Kulp, Esq., the same covering the Wright family and the related families of Cist and Hollenback. A brief review of the literary work of deceased is given by Sheldon Reynolds, who was probably his most intimate confere. Other contents are resolutions submitted to the society by C. Ben Johnson, a poem by D. M. Jones, Esq., proceedings of the Luzerne County Bar, of the Osterhout Free Library and the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. The volume is from the press of R. Baur & Son.

#### THE HERO OF WYOMING.

*Some Incidents in the Life of John Franklin who Took an Oath Upon the Bleeding Form of his Murdered Friend That he Would Never lay Down his Arms Till the Pennamites Were Expelled From Wyoming.*

At the last meeting of the Historical Society, Mrs. M. L. T. Hartman, of Shickshinny, read an excellent paper on the early history of lower Luzerne County, the same having been prepared for presentation at the Luzerne Centennial. We take pleasure in submitting a brief synopsis, Mrs. Hartman's sketch covering the events that transpired in the southwestern part of the county prior to its erection in 1786. Mention was made of the land troubles between the Pennsylvania government and the Connecticut settlers. The latter had become distrustful of the honesty of the State authorities by reason of having been imposed upon by laws passed by interested and malicious parties in the Assembly and which had been enforced by tyrants. The Connecticut settlers had possessed and cultivated the land, acquired by purchase from its former owners, the Six Nations, had built homes in the wilderness and endured toil and privation, all because they had full faith in the right of the Connecticut charter to hold possession for them.

Passing over the early troubles, arrests, imprisonments, persecutions, wrongs and revengeful murders perpetrated on the early Yankee settlers by Patterson, Armstrong and others, under pretext of Pennsylvania justice, mercy and truth, Mrs. Hartman proceeded to consider John Franklin. He was a representative Connecticut Yankee, the first white man to settle in the southwestern part of Luzerne County. He located there in the spring of 1775, cleared land, built a home for his young wife and children. Others soon joined him as neighbors. Samuel Trescott (Mrs. Hartman's great grandfather) was surveyor of the land. Col. John Franklin's father, also named John was committee of Huntington appointed by the Susquehanna Company. The senior John Franklin was seldom in Huntington, but his son and namesake was his authorized deputy. About 1775 Nathan Beach and some others settled in Salem. Elijah Austin occupied the land and water power in Shickshinny, and the families of Hunlock, Blanchard and others the lands about the mouth of Hunlock's Creek. The population of the region increased. A saw mill was built at Shickshinny by Elijah Austin, who brought the metal portions from Connecticut on sleds during winter, as the roads were too rough and bridgeless to be traveled with loads at other seasons.





John Franklin, then a young man of 26 (having been born in 1749 in Litchfield, Conn.), was regarded as a leader. He was one of the first 200 settlers who came to Wyoming in the spring of 1769, then in his 20th year. He was probably with Stewart's Rangers when their "Huzza for George the Third" rang loud and clear over the sleeping garrison of Pennamites on that frosty morning in 1770, when, as Dr. Egle relates, the house of Lancaster came to the rescue with the returning Yankees.

John Franklin was a leader in every enterprise, and as a civil justice, military commander, legislator or general counsellor he was known, esteemed, trusted and beloved and might well be acknowledged by all as the hero of Huntington, the hero of Wyoming and one of the heroes of the world.

In 1778 when Wyoming was invaded by the combined horde of Tories and Indians, Franklin was captain of a company of volunteers for Huntington and Salem. Lieut. Stoddard Bowen, of Salem, pressed on with a part of the company and arrived at Forty Fort in time to participate in the battle. He was killed, also Elias and David Bixby (or Bigsby), Levi Hicks and Job Marshall, and perhaps others.

Franklin's detachment arrived too late, exhausted by their long march and loss of sleep and rest. They were appointed to assist in preparing the fort for surrender. Solon Trescott, (Mrs. Hartman's grandfather) his elder brother Samuel, Thomas Williams and some other Huntington men, were held as prisoners, but were paroled by John Butler. Soon after a general exodus of the people took place.

Capt. Franklin's wife died of small pox in Windsor, Bucks Co., Pa., in November following. After taking his motherless children to Connecticut he returned to the desolated valley to assist in defending those in danger and to punish the enemy.

Huntington is proud to claim such a man as the pioneer, leader and friend of her people.

#### Lieutenant William Jones.

The account in the *RECORD* of the Masonic burial of Capt. Davis and Lieut. William Jones, who were killed by the Indians near Wyoming, in 1779, has brought out some very interesting information. We are informed by Miss Emily I. Alexander that the stone which now marks their grave was erected by George M. Hollenback and that she remembers distinctly of accompanying her father and Mr. Hollenback to the old burying ground on Market Street and making a search for the original stone. She remembers, though only a child, how the stone looked, she describing it as of red mountain stone and bearing, in addition to the inscrip-

tion, a Masonic symbol. Miss Alexander says that Mr. Hollenback remarked that he was related to Lieut. Jones and would erect a marble slab to replace the original stone, which had become very much defaced.

The dust of these honored dead is now buried in Hollenback Cemetery, not many rods to the north of the entrance and in a triangular lot owned by Lodge 61, A. Y. M., and set apart for these two graves alone. The marble is becoming yellow and as a correspondent suggests, should be replaced by a more imposing monument. That the grave is not neglected is shown by the fact that it is beautified by a thrifty weeping willow, a holly shrub and some arbor vitas bushes, to say nothing of the flags which are placed upon it by loving hands every Decoration Day and which flutter as long as a shred is left by the winds which sweep over the hills.

A conversation with Mr. Edward Welles has elicited the following note:

EDITOR *RECORD*: This young officer was, I believe, a nephew, certainly a near relative, of Mrs. Eleanor Jones Hollenback, mother of Matthias Hollenback, of Wilkes-Barre, and wife of John Hollenback, of Lebanon, near Jonestown. He was one of the officers in Major Powell's detachment sent on in advance of Sullivan's army, on its way to the Susquehanna in the month of April, 1779; and was one of several men slain in an ambush near Laurel Run. The following is a copy from the original epitaph on his tombstone, now gone into decay: taken from the old brown stone then lying in the Hollenback cemetery, in the month of October, 1868:

In memory of

Capt. J. Davis

of the 11th Penna. Regt.

also

Lieut. William Jones

who were massacred by the savages  
on their march to the relief of  
the distressed inhabitants of Wyoming  
April 23, 1779.

Erected by the Brotherhood

July 25, the same year.

The inscription upon the original stone has been copied in the present one, except that the last two lines are replaced by the words "Erected by a friend."

You will observe that the date given in the extract from the *Providence (R. I.) Gazette* of Sept. 18, 1779, for the ceremony of reinterment of the two officers, Davis and Jones, does not accord with that given on the tombstone, erected at the time, the latter being July 25, and the former July 28. If you have a perpetual calendar, you may find which is the correct date, as the newspaper account gives the day of the week as being





*Tuesday.* What you want is to find out whether that day of the week fell upon the 25th or the 23th of the month. [There seems to be considerable confusion as to the date. The newspaper item already alluded to says the funeral occurred on Tuesday, the 23th, whereas, Tuesday fell upon the 27th. Gen Stryker's sketch of the Sullivan expedition, gives still another date, July 29, though without specifying the day of the week.—EDITOR.]

The present tombstone was erected by the late G. M. Hollenback, Esq., when the original had become much dilapidated. The latter is said to have been buried in the same lot in Hollenback Cemetery, where the remains of Messrs. Davis and Jones were reinterred, as described by your correspondent, W. J.

Ought not a granite monument to be erected over the graves of those two men, in Hollenback Cemetery? W.

Nov. 20, 1886.

#### An Old Poem on Ireland.

[The Easton papers publish the following lines, written at Berwick by Rev. James Lewers, immediately after the passage in the year 1829 of the Act of "Catholic Emancipation," and now at this interesting period of Ireland's history, reproduced from memory by the writer's brother, Dixon Lewers, formerly of Wilkes-Barre, now a resident of Easton:]

When freedom came down from the skies with a smile,

And flew round in triumph unfettering the nations,

Ah, say, could she pass by the Emerald Isle

And beam not a glance of her dark desolation?

The land that contains our Emmett's remains

Could she leave it forever in darkness and chains? [sea,

No! List to the voice that sounds loud o'er the

Tis liberty speaks and our country is free.

"Oh, land of the west," cried the spirit of light

As on Ulster's green mountains at last she descended, [night,

"Have I left thee to groan beneath slavery's

Thy tears still unnoticed, thy claims unde-

fended?

Dear Isle that has been in my battles still seen

With thy bright, flashing sword and thy standard

of green:

Have I left thee in bondage to weep o'er the sea?

Rise! Erin Mavourneen! arise and be free."

"Can the days of thy Ullin be ever forgot,

The proud plume of war and love's eye softly

beaming?

Or thy Brian the Brave in my battles that

fought

Neath the harp woven standard victoriously

streaming,

Or that shout round the shore that the ocean

breeze bore

On Clontarf when the Norse-man lay stretched in

his gore,

Arise! Let the nations the bright record see

And ask the proud world why thou should'st not

be free."

#### When Berwick was Founded.

EDITOR RECORD: I notice in No. 2, page 38, of the *Historical Record*, the letter of the Hon. Stenben Jenkins in relation to the founding of Berwick, in which he quotes from a letter of Thomas Cooper, giving the date of settlement of Berwick as of the 10th of May, 1787. He closes with the remark: "It would seem to be satisfactory evidence of the time when the town of Berwick was laid out."

The indications are that Berwick was laid out earlier than the date given above. Timothy Pickering, in a letter to Gen. Muhlenburg, bearing date of Philadelphia, April 5, 1787, says:

"That application should be made to Council to appoint Evan Owen a Commissioner to explore, survey and make the best route for the road, and that Jacob Weiss should contract to open it so as to render it fit for passing wagons carrying a ton weight. This proposal I made on this principle—That persons interested in having the shortest and best road cut would be the fittest to be employed to execute the work. Mr. Owen is an intelligent man and (I find on inquiry) a man on whom the public may repose great confidence. He owns a tract of land opposite the mouth of the Nescopeck, which he has laid out into lots for a town, and has no intermediate interest."

The letter is too long to produce here, but enough has been given to show that Berwick was laid out before April 5, 1787, and when we bear in mind that Pickering wrote this in Philadelphia, it is fair to presume from the fame of the town having reached there as early as April 5, 1787, that it must have been laid out at least some months before that date.

C. F. HILL.

HAZLETON, Pa., Dec. 13, 1886.

#### The First Forty of Kingston.

After the treaty at Fort Stanwix, in 1768, had quieted the troubles with the Six Nations, the Susquehanna Company decided, at a meeting held at Hartford Dec. 28, 1768, to settle the much coveted lands at Wyoming. It was determined to lay out five townships, to be settled by the first of February thereafter, the first to have 40 settlers, each of the others to have 50. Each township was to be five miles square. The committee named the first township Kingston. The others were named Wilkes-Barre, Pittston, Plymouth and Hanover, in this order. Three full shares in each township were devoted to religion, education and charity. These townships were afterwards called Hanover, Plymouth, Kingston, Wilkes-Barre and Pittston. Upon the arrival of the first 40 from Connecticut, they found the





valley already occupied by representatives of the proprietary government of Pennsylvania, who were authorized to lay out two manors, one on either side of the Susquehanna, the Manor of Stoke and the Manor of Sunbury. They were given leases on tracts of land, were to establish a trading post with the Indians, encourage immigration and expel intruders, the latter term, of course, applying to settlers from Connecticut. When the first 40 arrived they found the Pennsylvanians located at the mouth of Mill Creek, in buildings which had been erected six years before by the Connecticut people whom the Indians had murdered or expelled. Finding the enemy in possession the Connecticut 40, who arrived in February, 1769, constructed a stockade across the river and named it for their number, Forty Fort. A little later it was determined to expel the Pennamites and they accordingly surrounded the block house and demanded a surrender, in the name of Connecticut. Their demand was met with a request for a conference, and the Connecticut men, unsuspecting of treachery sent Messrs. Tripp, Elderkin and Pollett into the blockhouse. They were immediately seized and taken to the Easton jail, their 37 associates accompanying of their own accord. They were immediately bailed out, returned to Wyoming and inaugurated the famous "Pennamite and Yankee War," which continued for thirty years, interrupted in part only by the Revolutionary War. Mr. Jenkins is authority for the statement that the Pennamites undoubtedly instigated the attack on Wroming to clean out the settlers and get possession of the lands.

The following list of the first 40 settlers is from the MSS. collection of Hon. Steuben Jenkins of Wyoming:

A list of the Proprietors or first Forty of Kingston:

Benjamin Shumaker,	Isaac Tripp,
Stephen Gardner,	Benjamin Follet,
John Jenkins,	Zebulon Butler,
Vine Elderkin,	Thomas Dyer,
William Buck,	Nathaniel Wales,
	Committee.
Andrew Metcalf,	Samuel Gaylord,
Simeon Draper,	Joseph Frink,
Reuben Davis,	Stephen Harding,
Asahel Atherton,	Stephen Jenkins,
Joshua Hall,	Ezra Belding,
Richard Brockway,	Timothy Smith,
Timothy Pierce,	Thomas Bennett,
Jonathan Dean,	Elijah Shoemaker,
John Comstock,	Peter Harris,
Theophilus Westover,	Parshal Terry,
Silas Bingham,	Elijah Buck,
Oliver Smith,	Nathan Denison,
Cyprian Lathrop.	

On Vine Elderkin's right, accepted Isaac Warner.

On Joshua Hall's right, accepted John Perkins.

On Peter Harris' right, accepted Elijah Harris.

On Nathan Walsworth's right, accepted Joseph Walter.

On Allen Wightman's right, accepted Douglass Woodworth.

On Cyprian Lathrop's right, accepted Palmer Jenkins.

On Stephen Harding's right, accepted Israel Jones.

On Henry Dow Tripp's.

Timothy Peirce, occupied by John Peirce.

Asahel Atherton, accepted James Atherton.

Samuel Gaylord, accepted Timothy Gaylord.

The above is a true list or roll of the Forty first settlers on the West Side of the Easternmost Branch of Susquehanna River as I was ordered By the Committee to Return ye same to Maj. Dorkee, President at Wilkes-Barre. Test.

ANDREW METCALF, clerk to said forty.

June ye 28, 1770.

[Note by S. J.: The names of Nathan Walsworth, Allen Wightman, Elias Roberts, Zerrubbable Jerroms, Henry Dow Tripp were erased by two lines being drawn across them. Their names, so far as they appear again, are given above.]

Forty-five years ago the old stage driven by Alex. and George Kenner, ran up one day from Wilkes-Barre to Carbondale and down the next, carrying at no time more than half a dozen passengers. Now six first-class passenger trains run daily between Scranton and Carbondale well filled. What a change! —*Scranton Republican*.

That recalls a remark made by Hon. Victor E. Piolet in a speech at the recent opening of the Lehigh Valley RR. Co.'s Vosburg Tunnel. He said that when Asa Packer was projecting the road the objection was made that there was a canal which was sufficient to carry all the coal from the Wyoming Valley and a stage line from Wilkes-Barre to Philadelphia which was ample to carry all the passengers who wanted to go—therefore what hope could there be that an expensive thing like a railroad could be maintained! To-day the Lehigh Valley has 19 passenger trains daily leaving its magnificent station in Wilkes-Barre, to say nothing of the freight and coal trains.

In 1782, Mary Pritchard was fined five shillings for going away from her residence unnecessarily on the Sabbath day.





## THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Mrs. M. L. T. Hartman Reads a Paper on Lower Luzerne—A Map of Sullivan's Campaign Presented—Other Valuable Donations.

The quarterly meeting of the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society, was held December 10, Judge Dana presiding, and the following ladies and gentlemen, among others, being in attendance:

Judge Loop, C. Parsons, O. A. Parsons, S. Reynolds, O. C. Hillard, Hon. C. D. and Mrs. Foster, Miss Emily Alexander, Miss McClintock, M. H. Post, Dr. and Mrs. Ingham, G. H. Butler, Charles J. Long, Frank Phelps, R. Sharpe, W. S. Monroe, Rev. H. G. Miller, G. R. Bedford, Hon. J. R. Wright, John Reichard, Edward Welles, Miss Geraldine Culver, J. E. Patterson, C. Morgan, Jr., W. H. and Mrs. Brown, F. C. Johnson.

Secretary J. Ridgway Wright read the minutes as also from the Record the account of the adjourned meeting of the society held in the court house on the occasion of the celebration of the centennial of Luzerne County.

A long list of contributions were acknowledged, among them the following:

Cabinet—Indian implements, thong dresser, hammer stone, pitted stone, Sheldon Reynolds; arrow and spear points, H. C. Wilson, Mt. Vernon, O.; Trinidad asphalt, Dr. C. F. Ingham; Brinton Cox, old prints.

Library—Rev. C. B. Bradee, Lyman H. Lowe, Hon. J. A. Scranton, Commissioners of State Survey, American Museum of Natural History, C. J. Hoadley, F. C. Johnson, Col. Reynolds, Hon. E. L. Dana, Essex Institute, American Geographical Society, New Jersey Historical Society, Record exchanges containing historical articles, John S. McGroarty, A. E. Foote, Laurence Francis Flick, Ed. Ruch, H. H. Harvey, Kansas Historical Society, American Catholic Historical Society, Newport Historical Society, Wm. J. Buck, Glasgow Archaeological Society, Australian Museum, E. F. Duren, Smithsonian Institution, Canadian Institute, Hon. Stenben Jenkins, G. B. Kulp, Public Opinion, Science, Will S. Monroe, Rhode Island Historical Society, Library Bureau, W. P. Ryman, W. P. Miner, Royal Academy of History Belles Lettres and Antiquity, Sweden, and the several government publications, of which the society's library is a depository.

Among the publications of interest was a catalogue of autographs belonging to estate of the late Lewis J. Cist, Vol. 13 of the Colonial Records of Connecticut, pamphlet on Indian methods of arrow release, "Huguenots on the Hackensack," description of the Frances Slocum relics, Buck's "History of the Indian Walk," *Historical Record*,

"Jenkins Family of Rhode Island," pamphlet on cannibalism among American Indians (by Gen. C. W. Darling, Utica, N. Y.), a newspaper published by the Ojibway Indians.

The contributions of Brinton Cox, Esq., president of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, include the following: Fac simile of an authentic silhouette of Washington, life size; original political caricature published in 1774, relating to throwing the tea overboard in Boston harbor; fac simile of the first royal proclamation relating to Pennsylvania, April 2, 1681; an old broadside of 1788: "observations by the committee of the landholders on the utility and importance of the roads proposed to be laid open in Northampton and Luzerne," from the papers of Trench Cox, one of the Philadelphia committee.

Judge Dana spoke of a brief correspondence with Gen. John S. Clarke, of Anburn, N. Y., relation to the old Sullivan Road. Gen. Clark informed the society of some interesting details of the route in the Wyoming region, and offered to furnish a copy of a pamphlet on the subject at a slight expense. Gen. Clarke referred also to the death of Jones and Davis on the road near Laurel Run. His letter was accompanied by a fac simile map of the route of Gen. Sullivan's army from Easton to a point 20 miles above Wilkes-Barre, Buttermilk Falls. The map was made by one of Sullivan's officers, Lieut. Lodge, and gives considerable detail as to streams, mountains, settlements, etc. It is copied from the archives of the New York Historical Society and is one of a series of five maps covering the entire route of the Sullivan expedition. They will be reproduced by the State of New York and 5,000 copies printed to accompany the history of the Sullivan campaign now being prepared in minute detail at the expense of the Commonwealth of New York.

The following gentlemen were elected to membership: Resident, Joseph D. Coons, Edwin Shortz, Rev. W. F. Watkins, Jr. Corresponding, Col. J. A. Price, W. A. Wilcox, Scranton; Dr. D. G. Brinton, Wm. A. Darlington, Philadelphia; Gen. C. W. Darling, Utica, N. Y.; Dr. Walter J. Hoffman, Washington, D. C.

At this point Mrs. Hartman read an admirable paper on the Huntington Valley portion of Luzerne County. It was a patriotic tribute to John Franklin, who figured so prominently in Wyoming history, of which we give a synopsis on page 67 of this issue. Mrs. Hartman also gave some statistics as to the agricultural and other resources of Huntington, together with an excellent poem of her own composition. Upon taking her seat Mrs. Hartman was warmly applauded and a vote of thanks passed.





Dr. Ingham offered a resolution that a committee be appointed to consult (in conjunction with the trustees) with the trustees of the proposed Osterhout building, with reference to the quarters that are intended to be provided in that building for the Historical Society. The chair appointed Calvin Parsons, Edward Welles and William P. Miner.

Judge Dana, as meteorologist of the city, submitted a detailed report for the last three months. In September the average temperature was 65, as compared with 60 in 1885 and 66.7 in 1886. The rain fall was 4.48 inches, as compared with 1.24 inches in 1885 and 1.66 inches in 1884.

October, average temperature 52, 50 in 1885 and 53.5 in 1884. Rain fall 2.96 inches in 1886, 4.45 in 1885 and 3.44 in 1884.

November, average temperature 35, 40 in 1885 and 35½ in 1884. Rain fall 5.84 inches in 1886, 5.22 in 1885 and 3.28 in 1884.

These figures show the present year (Sept., Oct. and Nov.) to have been much wetter than its two predecessors, the figures being 13.28 inches in 1886, 10.91 in 1885 and 8.38 in 1884.

Adjournment was than had until the annual meeting in February. Many of the visitors remained and inspected the map of the Sullivan Road and the several contributions.

#### Early Days in Wayne County.

A new history of Wayne County is being published. The *Honesdale Herald* gives some gleanings therefrom, a few of which we copy as being of local interest:

Daniel Skinner and others were the pioneer white settlers in Wayne County, settling at Cochection in 1757.

The first road opened through Wayne County was cut 1762 by the Connecticut settlers going to Wyoming. The second was the old North and South road, extending through our western townships from Monroe County to the north line of the State. The former was opened in 1762 and the latter in 1788.

Dr. Lewis Collins, of Cherry Ridge, was Wayne's first resident physician. He was born in Connecticut in 1753 and died at Cherry Ridge in 1818.

Ebenezer Kingsbury, Jr., from 1883 to 1840 proprietor of the *Wayne County Herald*, was State Senator from 1838 to 1842; Howkin B. Beardslee, another of its editors, was Senator from 1865 to 1868. Thomas J. Hubbell, another editor, and H. B. Beardslee were both members of the Legislature; and Warren J. Woodward, still another, was subsequently a Judge of the Supreme Court.

#### Col. Sam. Hunter on the Situation.

[The writer of the following letter was Col. Samuel Hunter of Northumberland County, and the reference to the Wyoming people induces me to send it forward for the *HISTORICAL RECORD*. Col. Hunter was a notable man. He resided on the site of Fort Augusta (Sunbury) which he owned; was justice of the peace, Member of Assembly prior to the Revolution, colonel of one of the Northumberland County associated battalions, and county lieutenant during the trying days of the struggle for independence. He died in 1784. The letter was to "Mr. Owen Biddle, Merchant, Philadelphia." W. H. E.]

Fort Augusta, 16th October 1775

Sir: As I came to Lancaster I was informed the situation our County was in for want of Ammunition, which made me apply to the Committee of Lancaster County for three Hundred w't of Gun Powder and nine Hundred w't of Lead, and so far prevail'd on them to let me have the above Quantity, by Giving them an Order on the Committee of Safety for the Province, to allow them so much out of the Quantity allow'd for the County Northumberland. What induced me to give such an Order was what you told me that evening I left Town, that you thought Our County should have some Ammunition, and I think there is no time we stand more in need of the like, when our Properties is invaded by a different Colony. Especially at these times of General Calamity. When we should unite as one in the General cause of liberty.

I am S'r

your most Obed't Humble Serv't

To Owen Biddle.

SAM'L HUNTER

#### The Historical Record.

In a letter from Caleb E. Wright, Esq., Doylestown, formerly of Wilkes-Barre, that gentleman writes: "I like your monthly. Such a publication was needed and should have been started at an earlier date. Send me all the numbers as I desire to bind them."

Mr. C. F. Hill writes from Hazleton: "Send me Nos. 1 and 2, as I intend to preserve and bind them, and I want the work complete. I hope you will give the *Historical Record* your best attention and push it. There is a world of unpublished history of the Revolutionary frontier of Pennsylvania which included the North and West Branches of the Susquehanna River, and every citizen in this terribly scourged frontier is interested in its early history, much of which now lives only in tradition. I am preparing some history for the *Record*, much of which has never appeared in print and will forward as soon as I can verify certain matters as to names and dates."





### Indian Name of Hunlock's Creek.

The following recently discovered scrap of history which has come into my hands as secretary of the Wyoming Commemorative Association, is thought to be worthy of a place in the RECORD:

"Whereas, Jonathan Hunlock, one of ye proprietors of ye Susquehanna Purchase, has been here with a complaint, and says he is a Proprietor in ye Susquehanna Purchase, and he made a pitch in said purchase at a place called by ye name of *Mossacota*, down ye river, about three miles from *Nanticook falls*, down ye river, and on ye west side of ye East Branch of ye Susquehanna, etc."

The formal parts of this ancient document, dated April 5, 1774, which confirms the said Jonathan Hunlock in the possession of his "pitch," and is signed by a committee of settlers, we omit. From the foregoing it appears that the Indian name of the stream now called Hunlock's Creek, was *Mossacota*. This is a euphonious and pretty name, and its restoration as the name of that whirling, leaping, dashing mountain tributary would be approved by all lovers of the beautiful in nomenclature as well as in more solid matter.

W. J.

### The Texas Domain.

EDITOR RECORD: History to be of any real value should be correct in details. I have just been reading an article in No. 3 of your interesting collection of historical matter, entitled "How we acquired our Domain." Among other things, the article in dealing with the subject of the Texas domain, says that after the admission of that State into the Union, "Texas was bankrupt, and for the public lands we got from her, sixteen millions' dollars of her debts were paid by this country."

This is a mistake. The United States Government did not acquire one acre of land by way of dowry, when we received the young "Lone Star" Republic into the sisterhood of States. The sixteen million dollars incumbrance was assumed by the general government, but Texas still held all her vast domain from the rich cotton plantations on the lower Brazos and Colorado to the Cross Timbers and Great Buffalo range on the west to Rio Grande del Norte. The public lands of Texas were all sold by the State and not by the United States, and the proceeds of such sales went into the State Treasury, what little there may have been left after paying expenses of issuing land scrip which was sold in great measure to speculators and land-grabbers as low as twenty cents an acre.

### HAZLETON'S CENTENNIAL.

A Short History of Things Pertaining to the Location of Roads and Other Interesting Facts.

The Hazleton *Sentinel* prints the following interesting communication, which we presume is from the pen of Charles F. Hill:

Hazleton has a Centennial on hand which it is in duty bound to observe. Less than one hundred years ago Hazleton and its surroundings was a howling wilderness with nothing but a few Indian paths through its solitary wilds. The paths originally led from the Lehigh Gap across this mountain to the mouth of the Nescopeck, a branch from this Nescopeck path from about Beaver Meadow led to the Wyoming region. The first organized effort to break through this wilderness was an act of assembly dated March 29, 1787, which resulted in opening the first turnpike road, which was done by Evan Owen, the founder of the town of Berwick. The road was strongly advocated by Timothy Pickering, Esq., and by Gen. Muhlenburg, and also by the Philadelphia Co. for promoting manufactures and the useful arts in the town Berwick, upon the Susquehanna, as you will see by the following communication of company named:

*To the Honorable Committee of the Supreme Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania appointed for the special purpose of considering what future roads may be Necessary to be Opened, etc., in said Commonwealth.*

### MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONORS:

The subscribers beg leave to mention to you the propriety of opening a road from or near Leonard Balliard's house in Mahanoy Valley, about 71 miles from Philadelphia into the road directed to be opened by an Act of the Honorable the Legislature, passed the 29th day of March, 1786, which leads to the falls of the Nescopeck in the river Susquehanna. The advantages attending this proposed road would be very considerable to the inhabitants settled in the counties of Northumberland and Luzerne in particular, but to the State in general, many of whom have a circuitous route of two hundred miles, who would then have no more than half that distance to bring their produce to this market, which undoubtedly would be mutually advantageous to the city and several of the counties. The said road would secure to a respectable part of the State the advantages of the Philadelphia market with considerable convenience. The distance necessary to be opened would be about 18 or 20 miles, and at present the views of the legislature in the opening of the





Nescopeck road must be frustrated unless this prayer should be granted, and was designed to have been carried to the Water Navigation of the river Lehi, but as the commissioner who was appointed in pursuance of the said Act had it then not in his power to open it to the said communication, the views of the legislature in consequence are rendered in some means abortive, or at least are not attended with advantages thereby designed. This addition thereto your petitioners humbly conceive would perfect the intentions which the wisdom of the honorable legislature meant to carry into effect. We take the liberty of mentioning that there is a company established in this plan nominated "The Philadelphia Company for Promoting Manufacturers and the useful Arts in the Town of Berwick upon the Susquehanna," the view of which are to promote the intercourse of a weighty part of the State which they trust will be advantageous thereto and disadvantageous to none. We therefore wish that you will so far coincide with this statement of the important subject as to report to council the propriety of opening this road, and your petitioners as in duty bound will pray, etc.

Signed by order and on behalf of the aforesaid company, by

BENJ'N SAY, President.

Philadelphia, Dec. 4, 1788.

Timothy Pickering, in a letter bearing the date Philadelphia, April 5, and 7, 1788, to General Muhlenburg, strongly advocates the building of this road for the \$150 granted by the legislature for the purpose. The centennial for the passage of this act falls upon Saturday, the 29th day of March next. There is a strong feeling existing to observe the day, and the writer is assured that many historical papers will be produced and read, and many ancient documents and relics of the time brought out. Hazleton is the central point on the road, and it is assured that the Lehigh & Susquehanna Co. will throw open their gate during the entire observance of the centennial. It is high time to move in the matter. A large delegation from Philadelphia will be invited as well as from all the leading towns in the country. The event is certainly an important one, and the time a very opportune one to look back over the past history of the region, and compare it with the present.

NESCOPECK.

Hazleton, Dec. 24, 1886.

The Germantown *Telegraph* for Nov. 24, contains an article on Rev. Peter Keyser, a pioneer preacher in Germantown, born 1768. The article is by Rev. S. F. Hotchiss.

## RECENT DEATHS.

SARAH GORE WOOD.

This estimable lady, the widow of John B. Wood, died in Wilkes-Barre Dec. 21, 1886, aged 81 years.

Mrs. Wood's maiden name was Sarah Gore, and she was the youngest of five children of John Gore. Her father was of the fifth generation of descent from John Gore, who emigrated from England to America in 1634, settling in Massachusetts.

She was a niece of the younger Obadiah Gore, who figured conspicuously and honorably in the early Wyoming history. Obadiah Gore was a member of the first company of Connecticut adventurers who vainly attempted to settle Wyoming Valley in 1762 and was in the company of 200 which came again seven years later. His name is intimately connected with the use of anthracite coal, he and his father, Obadiah, using it for blacksmithing in Wilkes-Barre as early as 1769, nearly forty years before Jesse Fell discovered that it could be used as fuel in stoves.

The Gore family was severely stricken by the Wyoming massacre. Eight members went into the fight and when the sun went down upon that bloody field five were killed and one was wounded. The brothers Silas, Asa and George were slain, as also the husbands of two of the sisters. The three brothers who escaped—Obadiah, Daniel and Samuel—subsequently enlisted in the Continental army and served throughout the war, Obadiah as a lieutenant.

The youngest brother (father of the late Mrs. Wood) was only 14 years of age and was among the fugitives from the slaughter. Returning, he settled in Kingston married Elizabeth, daughter of Gen. Wm. Ross, and died at the age of 73.

Obadiah Gore, as justice of the peace, united in wedlock, in 1788, Matthias Hollenback and Miss Sarah Hibbard. He was a representative from Westmoreland to the Connecticut Assembly and later he was a representative in the Pennsylvania Assembly. He took an aggressive part in the Penamite wars, and when the Wyoming settlers in 1784, believing that they were oppressed by the Decree of Trenton in favor of the Pennsylvania claimants, sought a refuge in the domain of New York (an account of the proposed exodus being first made public at the recent celebration of the Luzerne Centennial), Judge Gore was selected as spokesman for the settlers, they having united in a petition to the New York Assembly for a tract of land on which to settle. Mr. Gore bore the petition on horseback to Albany, succeeded in getting the matter to a favorable issue and returned home to Wyoming by the same lonely route through the wilderness.





Mrs. Wood, who was born in 1805 and died Dec. 21, 1886, married John B. Wood, and a sister married Moses Wood. She is survived by a daughter, Martha, wife of Major John Espy, of St. Paul, Minn.; Elizabeth, wife of Rev. A. J. VanCleft, of Norwich, N. Y.; and Maria E., wife of W. B. Mitchell, of this city and by two sons, John G. and George B.

#### MARTIN CORYELL.

A telegram to the RECORD from Sylvanus Ayres, Jr., brings the brief announcement that Martin Coryell died Tuesday, Nov. 30, at Lambertville, N. J.

Mr. Coryell was for several years a resident of this city, actively engaged in developing the resources of Wyoming Valley, and his family have a host of friends here who will be pained to hear of his demise. Death was due to a pulmonary trouble, the fatal termination having been hastened by hemorrhages. Deceased was born in New Hope, Bucks Co., Pa., 71 years ago, and was the son of Lewis Coryell, who was a prominent Democrat in his day and a warm friend of Calhoun and other public men of National reputation. Mr. Coryell was a civil and mining engineer by profession and was identified with numerous important enterprises in that line. He was prominent in the deliberations of the American Institute of Mining Engineers, of which he was a valued member. He was a regular attendant upon its annual gatherings, in various sections of the country and was a contributor to its fund of scientific papers. Mr. Coryell came to Wilkes-Barre during the early part of the war having previously been engaged in professional duties in Hazleton, where he was engaged in coal mining in partnership with Ario Pardee. After coming here he was instrumental in developing coal lands below Wilkes-Barre and in organizing the Warrior Run Mining Co., an organization still in existence with Calvin Parsons as president and operated by A. J. Davis & Co. Some ten years ago he determined to retire from active business and selling the handsome residence built by him at 15 North River Street, he removed with his family to Lambertville, N. J., which had been the home of the Coryells for several generations. There he bought a controlling interest in the water works, enlarged them and the same have continued under his management as president, and that of his son Torbert as superintendent.

Mr. Coryell's training as an engineer naturally brought him in contact with the subterranean world and he was recognized as a skilled and learned geologist. This fact, together with his natural fondness for matters of an antiquarian character, made him an invaluable member of the Wyoming

Historical and Geological Society, of this city, of which he was an active member during his residence here, and a corresponding member ever since.

Mr. Coryell was the assistant engineer in the construction of the Beldvidere Delaware RR., of which an ex-superintendent is J. A. Anderson, who married a sister of Mrs. Coryell, and he was interested in copper mining on Lake Superior.

He was married in 1842 to Myra Coryell, who survives him, as also two daughters and a son: Alice, married a Swiss merchant, Elie Erismann, their home being in Geneva, Switzerland. Emma L., married Sylvanus Ayres, Jr., formerly of this city, now doing business in New York, their home being in Lambertville, as is that of the son, Torbert.

He had three brothers and two sisters. Elias was educated at West Point and died young. Miers was for some years in business in China. The third brother, Ingham, is dead, as is a sister Rebecca. Another sister, Ellen, was twice married, first to a Mr. Torbert and then to the late Dr. Samuel Lilly, of Lambertville.

Mr. Coryell was of a retiring disposition, closely wrapped up in whatever work he had in hand, but a most genial companion when the cares of business were thrown aside. Possessing a fund of information on all general subjects, well read in the topics of the day, always bright and cheerful, fond of entertaining family friends, the Coryell home was ever the embodiment of genial hospitality, as many Wilkes-Barreans can attest.

#### MRS. SARAH E. ATHERTON.

The entire city was shocked Nov. 30 to hear of the death of Mrs. Sarah E. Atherton. It was known only to the most intimate friends of Mrs. Atherton that she was not in her usual health, and her death was totally unexpected even by them.

Mrs. Sarah E. Atherton was born October 19, 1823, the daughter of John Perkins, a well known resident of Wyoming whose wife was Miss Eunice Miller, and whose grandfather was a notable member of the massacred band of 1778. Mr. Perkins had six children, five daughters and one son, Mrs. Atherton being the oldest. Four of the family still live. David Perkins, who resides at the old homestead in Wyoming, Mrs. Reuben Henry, of Jersey City, Mrs. E. A. Coray, of Exeter, and Mrs. Robert Black, of Scranton. Thomas F. Atherton married Miss Sarah E. Perkins in 1841, leaving her a widow in April, 1870. They had no children.

Mr. Atherton was one of the leading and wealthiest residents of Wilkes-Barre in his later years, a man widely popular and notable for his generous sympathies. He made a large fortune as owner of a country





store at Wyoming and as one of the first stockholders of the D. L. & W. R.R. when that line was first projected. He was the founder and first president of the Second National Bank, and a founder of the Vulcan Iron Works. He had scarcely finished his mansion on West River Street when death removed him in 1870. Mr. Atherton was the half brother of Mrs. Charles A. Miner, and the uncle of Thomas Henry Atherton, Esq. Miss Hattie Atherton, well known in Wilkes-Barre social and musical circles, is his niece. The handsome West River Street estate of Mr. Atherton, by a clause in his will, goes to his niece and nephew, in the ratio of one portion to the former and two to the latter.

#### Historical Notes.

The Doylestown *Democrat* of Dec. 7, 1886, contains an article on New Britain Homesteads,—Old Dunlap Farm, Warrington—and The Larzeleres.

W. H. H. Davis, editor of the Doylestown *Democrat*, cautions the public against a so-called "History of Bucks County," offered by A. Warner & Co., he claiming it to be an infringement on his copyright, which has 10 years to run.

The pamphlet written not long ago by Dr. James J. Levick, of Philadelphia, on the early physicians of that city met with a most favorable reception all over the country. It has been pleasantly mentioned by many leading journals in all sections.

Rev. John W. Sanborn, '73, of Albion, N. Y., read a very interesting paper before the Anthropological section of the A. A. A. S. on the "Iroquois League." Being himself by adoption a member of the Seneca Nation and a chief among them, the paper was all the more valuable as coming from inside authority. Mr. Sanborn has done some valuable classical work, and is now about to publish a hymn book in the Seneca dialect. —*College Armys.* (Wesleyan.)

The November issue of *Wide Awake*, (D. Lothrop & Co., Boston) contained an elaborately illustrated article on the Princess Pocahontas and her husband, John Rolfe. Among the others is a full page portrait of Pocahontas and her little son, Thomas Wolfe. The article maintains the truth of the saving of Capt. John Smith's life by Pocahontas. The article is made valuable by fac similes of portraits of both these historic personages, taken during their life time.

The Montrose *Republican* of Dec. 6 has an interesting letter descriptive of a trip through the Mohawk Valley and the historic events which occurred there. The writer, "J. C. B." does not believe that Brant was at the Wyoming massacre, but accepts the view that he was engaged in raids to the north-

ward. He pronounces Col. John Butler, Joseph Brant, and Walter Butler, "a diabolical trio whose footsteps, wherever they went, whether conjointly or separately, were red with the blood of innocence and helplessness."

Our domestic fowl sometimes have singularly voracious appetites. Pearce's "Annals of Luzerne" mentions the killing of a duck in Wilkes-Barre, in 1859, (by H. C. Wilson, we believe,) which had in its gizzard an awl with a handle three inches long. The West Chester *Local News* has been shown the contents of a chicken's gizzard that had been killed there, among which were a few white flint stones and 40 brass shells of .22 calibre that had been exploded in firing at a mark. The shells had been much worn by the action of the gizzard upon them and the greater portion had a piece of flint in them where the bullet had been and the brass partly closed over them by the milling process they had undergone, and from their appearance they must have been in the gizzard for some time. They had not in the least affected the health of the chicken.

#### The Great Flood of 1841.

The Allentown *News* says: "The death recently at Rockport, Carbon Co., of Adam Beers, aged 77 years, recalls a sad incident in the life of that man. In 1841, the year of the big freshet, he and his family tended lock at the Turn Hole, above Mauch Chunk. The freshet occurred in January of that year and Mr. Beers' three eldest children, William, aged 8; George, 5, and Eliza, aged 3 years, lost their lives by drowning. Two of the bodies were never recovered. Mrs. Beers with her youngest child, a boy of about five months, in her arms, also had a narrow escape from a similar fate. In commemoration of the boy's miraculous escape from drowning he was fittingly named Moses. He is now a practicing physician, very prominent in his profession, in Newcomerstown, O."

#### Edited and Printed by Indians.

The Historical Society is in receipt of nearly a year's numbers of a Canadian journal published at Hagersville, Ont., called *The Indian*, devoted to the aborigines of North America and especially to the Indians of Canada. The editor is Chief Kah-ke-wa-quo-na-by, or in English Dr. P. E. Jones. Among the contained matter is a biographical sketch of the famous Mohawk chief Brant. The author disclaims Brant's responsibility for the Cherry Valley atrocities, and no mention is made of the Wyoming slaughter. The journal is a highly interesting one from an ethnological standpoint and is edited with genuine ability. It contains a few articles in Ojibwa each week.





# The Historical Record

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION

DEVOTED PRINCIPALLY TO

## The Early History of Wyoming Valley

AND CONTIGUOUS TERRITORY

WITH

## NOTES AND QUERIES

BIOGRAPHICAL, ANTIQUARIAN, GENEALOGICAL



EDITED BY F. C. JOHNSON, M. D.

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Vol. I] JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1887 [Nos. 5-6.

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WILKES-BARRE, PA.

Press of The Wilkes-Barre Record

MDCCCLXXXVII





# The Historical Record.

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# *The Wilkes-Barre Record,*

PUBLISHED EVERY WEEK-DAY MORNING.

Contains the general telegraphic news of the Associated Press, including Markets. The most complete Local Journal in Northern Pennsylvania. The most Widely Circulated and Best Advertising Medium in its field. Is delivered regularly in Alden, Ashley, Beach Haven, Belbend, Berwick, Dallas, Drifton, Edwardsville, Fairview, Forty-Fort, Freeland, Glen Lyon, Glen Summit, Hazleton, Hunlock, Huntville, Kingston, Larksville, Laurel Run, Luzerne, Miners' Mills, Mocanaqua, Nanticoke, Penobscot, Pittston, Plains, Plymouth, Shickshinny, Sugar Notch, Wapwallopen, Wanamie, White Haven, Wyoming, etc. Subscription 50 cents per month by carrier, \$6 per year by mail.



## *The Record of the Times,*

ISSUED EVERY FRIDAY.

Reaches every post-office in Luzerne county, and circulates widely outside. Its epitome of the Local News, the Court Proceedings, the Markets and General News, is succinct and comprehensive. All important Legal Advertisements, including Sheriff's Sales, appear in its columns. It is the leading paper—as to its local reports and as an advertising medium—in its field. Subscription \$1.50 per year, or \$1 if paid in advance.



## *The Historical Record,*

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

Devoted principally to the early history of Wyoming Valley and contiguous territory, with Notes and Queries, Biographical, Antiquarian and Genealogical. The HISTORICAL RECORD was started September, 1886, and each number consists of from 12 to 24 large pages, with wide margin. Subscription, \$1.50 per year, payable in advance. Single Copies, 15 cents.



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**WILKES-BARRE, PENN'A.**





# The Historical Record

VOL. I.

JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 1887.

Nos. 5-6.

## PIONEER PRIVATIONS.

**The Hardships of a Connecticut Family Who Came to Wyoming in 1778, as Told by one of the Sufferers—Sickness and Death in Transit Save Them From the Massacre.**

The narrative of Mrs. Lydia (Hurlbut) Tiffany, daughter of (Deacon) John Hurlbut, of Hanover, Luzerne County, Pa. It was dictated to her grandson, Myron Hurlbut, of Arkport, N. Y., in 1855, she being then eighty years old. She was born in Groton, Connecticut, July 10, 1775, and came with her father's family to Hanover in the early spring of 1779. She married John Tiffany in Hanover in 1798 and removed to Arkport, where she deceased. She says: "John Hurlbut, my grandfather, settled in Groton, Connecticut. My grandmother's name was Stoddard. I think she was living when we moved from Groton to Wyoming. My mother, Abigail Avery, was born on the 1st of April (old style) 1735, and died in Pittston (formerly called Lackawanna) Luzerne County, Pa., Nov. 29, 1805. Father started to remove from Groton to Wyoming in the spring of 1778, probably very late in the spring, or early in June. They moved with two teams for carrying household furniture, one a wagon drawn by horses and the other a cart drawn by oxen. Father, mother and my two sisters rode horse-back. Sister Catharine carried me most of the way on the horse with her. We took along cattle, hogs and sheep. I think we crossed the Hudson River at Newburg. Just after crossing the Delaware River father was taken with the prevailing camp distemper, and there father and mother remained to recruit, while the caravan moved slowly forward under the direction of my brother John. My sister Abigail was soon taken with the same disorder, which she endured with great fortitude, though only six years old. She died, away from her parents, at Lackawaxen. John went back to inform them, and mother knew from his looks that something dreadful had happened. She would not permit him to tell what it was until after she had had a season of prayer in her closet, and thus was prepared to hear of the death of her child with composure.

"These misfortunes saved them from the greater misfortune of being in a situation to be massacred at Wyoming on the 3d of July, 1778. My brother Christopher had come (from Wyoming) to Lackawaxen to meet them, and thus he also was providentially absent from the massacre.

"Father turned aside to Shawangone in the State of New York, where he carried on a farm for two years, (probably less) and then moved to Wyoming. Father bought eight hundred acres of land at Hanover, three miles above Nanticoke Falls. He built his first house of logs on the north bank of a creek, on the west side of the main road, perhaps a quarter of a mile from the Susquehanna River. There was an alarm of Indians shortly after we moved there,—within one or two years. We fled in consequence from our dwelling and the Indians burned it. Brother John built a log house on the site of the old one, that, I think, is now standing. What furniture could not be removed was concealed. The large mirror and the pewter dishes were buried. For greater safety we had moved up to the Stewart place, near the lower end of Careytown, where there was a blockhouse and some soldiers. There father sickened and died. As there was no burying ground in the neighborhood he was, at his request, buried on his own farm. The grave has since been plowed over and its exact location entirely lost. He was buried directly back of, that is west of, the house that was burned, on the same bench of land, and, say ten rods from the place where the land begins to descend to the flats, and beyond the garden.

"My brother, John and Christopher were elders in the church, (probably at Wilkes-Barre.)"

At the time this was written, 1855, the house built by her brother John had been torn down more than twenty years. Her father had bought the farm of John Hollenback in 1777, built and occupied the house in the early spring of 1779, and in April of the same year was chosen member of the Connecticut Assembly, together with Col. Nathan Demson, to meet in Hartford in May. The Assembly met twice a year, and he was sent there four times before his death in March, 1782. He was born in 1730. The parentheses are mine.

H. B. PLUMB.





## A FAMILY OF PREACHERS.

A Clipping From a Western Paper That Suggests Some Interesting Data as to a Branch of the Bowman Family.

[Sharon Springs (Kan.) Times.]

Mrs. Susan B. Bowman, mother of Mrs. McMichael, landlady of the Sharon Springs Hotel, of this town, is now in her 88th year, and is quite smart for a woman of her age. Her father, Thomas Dodson, settled near Shickshinny, Luzerne County, Pa., about 120 years ago, in the then howling wilderness and among wild animals and savage Indians. Her grandmother was carried off by the Indians and was kept by them some four years along the Delaware and Susquehanna rivers. Her folks found out where she was, and with a large posse of armed men, one dark night, stole in among the wigwams and captured her after some severe fighting. She had been among the Indians so long that she had become accustomed to their ways and could handle the bow and arrow with accuracy; but on her return home was overjoyed to be on the little side-hill farm, instead of the small wigwam among the bloody savages. She said she never expected to see her parents again. Mrs. Bowman's father's house in Luzerne County, Pa., was burned twice by the Indians in mid-day. They saw the Indians coming, and heard the sounds of their war whoops, and fled, her mother carrying her in her arms many miles. Mrs. Bowman has all of her faculties except being a little hard of hearing, but she reads every day without glasses. She has been a true, consistent member of the M. E. Church for more than 70 years, and is an aunt to Bishop Bowman, of St. Louis, Mo. Mrs. Bowman is the mother of nine children and has outlived all of them but two, Tipstaff Charles M. Bowman, of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., and Mrs. McMichael, of Sharon Springs, Kan.

[The lady mentioned was Miss Susan Dodson, of Town Hill, Luzerne Co., Pa., and her husband (whose death occurred at Rock Island, Ill., in 1871) was George Bowman. The latter was one of 10 children of Rev. Thomas Bowman. The latter was born in 1760, in Bucks County, Pa. Married Mary Freas, 1782. Moved to Briar Creek, Columbia Co., in 1793. He was a local preacher in the M. E. Church, and in 1807, together with his brother Christopher, was ordained a deacon by Bishop Asbury at Fort Fort. He was a powerful preacher and traveled on horseback up and down the Susquehanna for many years. He died in 1823 at Briar Creek. Thomas Bowman had 10 children:

Christopher, Jr., b. 1783, d. 1850.

Henry, b. 1785, d. 1805.

John, b. 1786, d. 1843.

Jesse, b. 1788, d. 1880.

Sarah, b. 1790, m. Samuel Millard, d. about 1830.

Wesley, b. 1793.

George, b. 1795, d. 1871.

Sophia, b. 1797, m. Judge Gearhart, d. 1880.

Susan, b. 1799, m. Rev. Shadrach B. Laycock, d. 1875.

Thomas, b. 1803, d. 1808.

Of these, John, who died near Berwick in 1843, was the father of Rev. Thomas Bowman, who rose to distinction in the Methodist Church, being made a bishop in 1872, a relation which he still holds.

Jesse was the father of our former townsman, Caleb Franklin Bowman, Esq., whose death occurred in Wilkes-Barre in 1873. The latter's widow, born Isabella Tallman, is still a resident of our city. Caleb's brother, Gen. Samuel Millard Bowman, attained distinction in the United States Army, and died of a paralytic affection in June, 1885, in Kansas City, at the age of 70.

Within the last few weeks the same affection which caused the death of Gen. Samuel M. Bowman and C. F. Bowman, has prostrated another brother, John Wesley Bowman, at his home in Nanticoke, his right side being paralyzed. Mr. Bowman is the ninth child and the seventh son of Jesse Bowman. He was born in 1825 and by vocation is a farmer. In 1872 he married Mary Victoria Hughes, of Tamaqua.

For most of the data used above we are under obligation to the handsome volume entitled "The Bowman Family, a Historical and Memorial Volume, from the earliest traditions to the present time." Published in 1886 at Harrisburg, for private circulation. It is from the pen of Rev. Shadrach Laycock Bowman, professor of systematic theology in De Pauw University, Ind., and Rev. Jesse Bowman Young, of Harrisburg. It is a volume of 258 pages, elaborately illustrated with phototypes. Among the portraits are those of the late C. F. Bowman and his widow. It is a valuable contribution to local history and to the history of Methodism.—  
[Editor.]

At its last annual meeting the American Historical Society adopted a recommendation in favor of a due observance in 1892 of the four hundredth anniversary of the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus. Their memorial was referred to a committee of Congress, which has reported in favor of the commemoration of the event by an international exhibition of the industries and products of all nations. The report of the committee recommends a joint committee of the Senate and House to prepare and report a suitable bill.





## THE WYOMING BLUES.

## Some of the Rules of that Ancient Military Company and a Call for an Election of Officers.

One of Wilkes-Barre's earliest military companies was the Wyoming Blues, though just when it was organized nobody knows. James A. Gordon says they had a quasi-organization as early as 1798. They certainly existed as early as 1800 as shown by an old weather-beaten document in the possession of the RECORD, it being a printed blank, filled in with a pen. It reads as follows:

## MILITIA ELECTION.

Notice is given to the Volunteer Company called the Wyoming Blues, attached to the Second Battalion in the 35th Regiment, commanded by Lieut. Col. Ransom, that an election for a captain, Lieutenant and Ensign will be held at the house of Lawrence Myers, Esq'r, in the township of Kingston, on Thursday, the 19th day of June, inst., 1800, between the hours of 10 in the forenoon and six in the afternoon, where those concerned are requested to attend, to elect by ballot, the said officers.

## WILLIAM ROSS.

Brigade Inspector of the Second Brigade, composed of the Militia of the counties of Northumberland, Lycoming and Luzerne.

Wilkes-Barre, June 10th 1800.

The old paper is handed us by George H. Butler, Esq., and is one of the batch found a couple of years ago among the effects of Zebulon Butler, son of Col. Z. Butler.

There are also a couple of sheets of paper pinned with the same pin that fastened them together 80 years ago, giving what appears to be the original organization of the Wyoming Blues, their rules, uniform and first roster. It is so torn and soiled that some parts cannot be deciphered. We append it, though not vouching for the correctness of the signatures as given:

The undersigned, belonging to the Wyoming Blues, pledge ourselves to comply with the following rules, to wit:

That we will furnish ourselves with such uniforms, etc., as shall be agreed on by the company by the — day of —

That any one who in the least does not equip and attend agreeably to the rules of the company. . . .

Zeb. Butler,  
George Chahoon,  
W. M. Robison,  
Samuel Brown,  
Calvin Edwards,  
Edwin Tracy  
Josiah Bennet,  
Elijah Adams,  
Nutton,  
John J. Ward,  
Godfrey Perry,

Charles Miner,  
Isaac A. Chapman,  
Isaac Bowman,  
Luman Gilbert,  
Nehemiah Waters,  
James S. Lee,  
James Wright,  
Lyra Landon,  
Jacob . . .  
George Hendler,  
Jacob Kiethline,

Andrew Vogle,  
Conrad Rummage,  
George Espie,  
Daniel Downing,  
John L. Barvel,  
Joseph Shafer,

Jesse Crissman,  
Francis Rainow,  
Benjamin Perry,  
John Hannis,  
James Foster,  
Hugh H. Anderson.

Resolved that no member shall have leave to withdraw unless by consent of the company, unless urgency requires it sooner than the company can meet, and in such case he shall have leave of the officers. *Passed.*

Resolved that the uniform of the company shall be as it has formerly been, except the coat, which shall be a short skirt coat or a coatee, and those who have an uniform at this time may wear their present coats. *Passed.*

Resolved that we will be uniformed at or before the next general review. *Passed.*

The uniform shall be,

1, A crowned brimmed black hat . . . black bear skin, with a white . . . and red lap.

2, Deep blue coatee, faced and trimmed with red.

3, White or buff vest.

4, Deep blue pantaloons circled with red.

5, Either boots or black shoe and black gaiters. *Passed.*

## Death of Ex-Judge Barnum.

About 11 o'clock am., Tuesday, Jan. 11, Charles T. Barnum, a former associate judge of this county, died at his residence, on the shores of Harvey's Lake, after a brief illness of inflammation of the bowels. For many years past he had lived a quiet, retired life at his comfortable home on the Lake. He was born in Kingston Jan. 8, 1813, and was therefore a few days past 74 years old. In his early manhood he took an active part in public and political affairs. He served one term as county commissioner and was for some time afterwards commissioners' clerk. He was elected associate judge and sat on the bench with the late Judge Conyngham. He was widely known throughout this and neighboring counties, and was held in high esteem by all who knew him. He was a genial and kindhearted man and will be sorely missed by his more intimate friends.

Funeral services will be held at his home at the Lake to-day at 10 am., after which the remains will be removed to the home of his son, Benjamin F. Barnum, on South Welles Street, from whence the interment will be made on Thursday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Another son who survives is Prof. James Barnum.—*Daily Record, January 12.*

G. H. R. Plumb, Esq., left recently to make some hasty researches throughout New England and the South in matters concerning his "History of the Plumb Family in America."





## WILKES-BARRE'S RESOURCES.

## Facts Taken From the Tenth Census Statistics of Population.

Volume 18, of the tenth census, treating of the social statistics of cities, has just been received at this office. It bears date of 1886. Nine pages of the volume are devoted to Wilkes-Barre, and the article on our city is illustrated by a diagram showing the distance and direction of New York, Philadelphia, Harrisburg, Pittsburg and Buffalo, and by a map of Wilkes-Barre.

A foot note states that Sheldon Reynolds, Esq., of Wilkes-Barre, is the author of the historical sketch, and also transmitted a large proportion of the detailed information concerning the then (1880) condition of the city. It is, however, due to Mr. Reynolds to say that the blunders with which the report abounds are not his, but the result of bad typesetting and worse proof reading. None of the proofs reached the author. For instance, our people of Connecticut extraction should not deal unkindly with Mr. Reynolds because his article says that Wyoming was first settled in 1762 by a party of men from *Cincinnati*. Nor should they be misled by the "secret attempt" of the Susquehanna Company in 1789 to take possession, for second attempt is meant. The completion of the North Branch Canal in 1813 is, of course, a misprint for 1830. The river common, instead of having a maximum width of 3,500 feet, has only 350, and the river has not washed the rest away, either, in spite of one or two local alarmists.

The table of population by decades is badly mixed. The figures should be as follows: 1820, 755; 1830, 1,201; 1840, 1,718; 1850, 2,723; 1860, 4,253; 1870, 10,174; 1880, 23,339. Apart from these the blunders are mainly examples of the Government type setters assuming to know more about grammar than the author.

The latitude is 41 degrees, 14 minutes north; longitude 75 degrees and 56 minutes west from Greenwich; altitude 511 to 731 feet.

Total valuation, \$3,134,180; per capita, \$134. Net indebtedness, \$95,097; per capita, \$4.07. Tax per \$100, \$3.83.

An interesting sketch is given from the earliest settlement down to 1880 and a description of the city as it appeared in that year—its railroad communication, tributary country, topography, climate, streets, water works, public buildings, pleasure grounds, places of amusement, drainage, cemeteries, markets, sanitation, infectious diseases, municipal cleansing, police and manufactures. As seven years have elapsed since these statistics were prepared, and our city has doubled in population, it would serve no good purpose to reprint them now in these

columns. If they could be brought down to date and published in pamphlet form together with the historical sketch, they would form a most valuable document for the Board of Trade to distribute. They convey a vast deal of information that is too valuable to be locked up within a public document.

The volume is compiled by Col. George E. Waring, Jr., of Newport R. I.

## Index of Government Publications.

A most valuable publication has lately been issued from the Government printing office, a copy of which reaches the RECORD through the courtesy of Congressman Osborne. It is a descriptive catalogue of all the Government publications of the United States from 1774 to 1881, a period of 107 years. It is a volume of nearly 1,400 pages, 9x11½ inches, and is compiled by the well known Washington correspondent, Ben: Lerley Poore, clerk of printing records.

The greater portion of the volume is devoted to a list chronologically arranged, of the many thousand publications, legislative, executive and judicial, giving each a very brief summary of a few lines. This of itself would furnish the investigator scant help in tracing up a subject of finance, political economy, or other historical matter. But search is rendered easy by means of a detailed index.

For example, suppose one wants to refer to the efforts made half a century ago to indemnify the people of Wyoming Valley for losses sustained during the Revolutionary War, the following interesting references are given in connection with "Wyoming:"

"Memorial relative to Wyoming claims. Citizens of Pennsylvania. Dec. 27 1837. Ex. Docs. No. 52, 25th Congress, 2d session, Vol. 2 8pp. 8 vo. In behalf of the sufferers by invasion of the Wyoming settlement by the British and Indians during the Revolutionary War; praying for a grant of lands to the survivors and to the heirs of those that are dead.

Resolutions relative to claims of Wyoming sufferers. Pa. Legislature, Apr. 16, 1838. Ex. Docs. No. 358, 25th Congress, 2d session, Vol. 10. In favor of the passage of a law granting compensation to the sufferers by the Wyoming massacre during the Revolutionary War.

Report on petition of heirs of the Wyoming victims July 2, 1838. Reports of committees, No. 1032, 25th Congress, 2d session, Vol. 4, 2 pp., octavo. House Revolutionary Claims Committee reports adversely to allowance of compensation for losses sustained.

Petition relative to Indian depredations. Citizens of Wyoming, Feb. 18, 1839. Ex-





Docs. No. 203, 25th Congress, 3d session, vol. 4, 40 pp., 8 vo. Praying compensation for losses and sufferings occasioned by the attack of the Indians on the town of Wyoming during the Revolutionary War".

Under date of March 25, 1836, reference is made to the recommendation by the House Revolutionary Claims Committee of allowance to heirs of Dr. Wm. Hooker Smith, of Wilkes-Barre, for his services as acting surgeon during the Revolutionary War. This petition was taken to Washington by Dr. Andrew Bedford, who, after the lapse of 50 years, is alive and well at his home in Waverly.

The measures taken in regard to Frances Slocum, "the lost sister of Wyoming," are as easily traced, as also the measures introduced by our several Representatives in Congress.

Every event in our Nation's history can be traced easily, provided one has access to the public documents themselves, many of which can be found in the library of the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society, which is at present one of the official depositories of all the Government publications. The index alone affords interesting reading. Under such heads as "Jefferson Davis," "Slavery," "Revolutionary War," "George Washington," "Tariff," "Public Land," and hundreds of other topics one can find as much to interest as he could by consulting a cyclopedia.

The work of preparing the volume occupied two years and was performed by Mr. Poore and 14 assistants. They found and catalogued 63,066 books, pamphlets and documents, ransacking the libraries of Congress, of the Senate, of the House, of the seven Executive Departments, of the Departments of Agriculture, the Smithsonian Institution, of the Coast and Geodetic Survey and the other scientific surveys, as also the public library of Boston.

The work is not too wieldy for reference and will greatly facilitate an examination of the books, pamphlets and documents published by or purchased by the Federal Government since its inception, many of which have been virtually unknown to publicists and the students of questions to which they relate. Mr. Poore is to be congratulated upon the fidelity and thoroughness with which his work has been done.

On the occasion of the inauguration of Gov. Beaver, the Harrisburg *Telegraph* published a series of biographical articles of all the Governors of Pennsylvania, from the fertile pen of Dr. W. H. Egle. By the way, Dr. Egle has been busily engaged reading the proof sheets of volume 13 of the Pennsylvania Archives.

#### Col. Plunkett's Expedition.

Dr. W. H. Egle, of Harrisburg, sends the Record an interesting document pertaining to the Plunkett invasion of Wyoming Valley in 1775. The doctor promises a sketch of Plunkett for a subsequent issue. We may premise the old document by remarking that Plunkett was sent in 1775 to Wyoming by the Pennsylvania Assembly to effect the arrest of certain of the Connecticut claimants who were charged with illegal practices. He accordingly marched on Wyoming with 500 men. At Nanticoke they were given a warm reception by the Connecticut settlers, and beaten back with a loss of two killed and several wounded, the fight occurring on Christmas Day. The expedition accordingly returned down the river without effecting its object. Plunkett is mentioned in the bill as Doctor, he having been a druggist, and perhaps a practitioner of medicine, though as to this, Dr. Egle will doubtless enlighten us in his promised sketch.

#### The Province of Pennsylvania

To Capt. Thomas Gaskin Dr,	
For a large Boat Lost in the Expedition with Doctor William Plunkett returning from Wyoming.....	£18 0 0
To Six large Socket polls Lost at the same time.....	25 0
To 12 Days Service of myself at 3s 9d per day.....	25 0
To 12 Days Service of two boatmen at 2s 6d per day.....	3 0 0
To finding myself and hands provisions.....	2 15

December, 1775 £28 5 0

Interest Due.

Northumberland County ss:

On the 20th day of November Anno Dom. 1789, Before me John Simpson esquire one of the Judges of the Court of Common please for the county afores'd, personally came Thomas Gaskins, who being duly sworn on the holy Evangelists of Almighty God, did declare and say that the account as above stated is just and true; and that he never received it nor no part thereof, and further saith not.

THOMAS GASKINS.

Sworn and subscribed the day and year afores'd, Before me, witness my hand and seal.

J. SIMPSON.

SEAL

[The foregoing is endorsed, "Thomas Gaskins' account against the Province of Pennsylvania" and also "Received a Certificate No. 16,749 for twenty-eight pounds five shillings, W. Wilson." Col. William Wilson, was then a member of of the Supreme Executive Council from Northumberland County. Who was Thomas Gaskins?]





### A Connecticut Local History.

A 96-page pamphlet recently received by the Record bears the following title: "Historical Sketch of the Congregational Church and Parish of Canton Center, Conn., formerly West Simsbury, organized 1750. Compiled by Rev. Frederick Alvord and Miss Ira R. Gridley. Hartford, 1886." It opens with a historical sermon preached by Rev. Jairus Bart in 1851, the only connected history of the church up to that time. The settlement of Simsbury began in 1737, and the place was constituted a parish in 1750. The first settled pastor was Rev. Evander Morrison, 1750, and the second was Rev. Gideon Mills, 1759; third, Rev. Seth Gage, 1774; fourth, Rev. Jeremiah Hallock, 1785 to 1828. A curious document is given, relative to the pastor's retirement, he signing a paper discharging the society from any liability as to his salary, and "I ye said Mr. Morrison do acquit and discharge the society from all demands from the beginning of the world to this day and forever after. Received in full—I say received per me—as witness my hand." The pamphlet traces the church and the parish down to the present and gives brief sketches of such citizens as become prominent in business or in the professions. It closes with a historical poem by Miss Ida R. Gridley, who was a Wesleyan graduate in the class of 1885 and is now a student of medicine. The pamphlet is a valuable contribution to Connecticut local annals and is of interest as well to students of Wyoming history, some of our pioneers having come from the region described.

### Eighty-Two Years Old

[Daily Record, Jan. 4.]

The host of Col. Charles Dorrance's friends, should they meet him to-day, would be glad to extend him their hearty congratulations at having reached the ripe age of 82 years. The event will be quietly celebrated by a family gathering. Col. Dorrance is hale and hearty and shows hardly a trace of the paralytic attack which affected him some time ago. He is therefore in good trim for enjoying the event and having his children and grand-children around him again. The colonel takes pardonable pride in coming from the old Connecticut stock which first peopled this fruitful valley and who had first to drive out a savage foe and then seek to maintain an unequal conflict for title against the power of what was believed to be oppression on the part of the State government. Col. Dorrance is president of the association which meets annually at the foot of the monument to com-

memorate the bloody fight of 1778, and in which his grandfather, Lt. Col. Geo. Dorrance, was so badly wounded that he was on the following day killed by his savage captors.

Col. Charles Dorrance—he gets his title from having been an officer in the old Wyoming Volunteers—is a liberal patron of everything which goes to build up Wyoming Valley and to elucidate its early history. At the 3d of July gatherings he has a fondness of making them as impressive as possible, and always insists on taking to the annual dinner as his guests the several clergymen who may be present, and not only so, but he does the newspaper men the compliment of including them in the same select circle of guests.

Col. Dorrance is a son of Benjamin Dorrance and a brother of the late lamented and beloved Rev. John Dorrance, of local fame in Presbyterian circles. He was born Jan. 4, 1805, and has ever since lived in the ancestral home, where he has a model farm and where he is surrounded by everything that wealth and a discriminating taste can supply. In his advancing age he is not alone, but his good wife, whom he married in 1845, is spared to enjoy his company. Their home is visited almost daily by some one or other of their children or grandchildren. His son, B. F. Dorrance, Esq., lives with his family near the paternal home and his daughter Annie Buckingham, wife of Sheldon Reynolds, Esq., lives in Wilkes-Barre. Of his other sons, J. Ford Dorrance is practicing law in Meadville, John is farming in Missouri and Charles, Jr., is a clerk in Chicago.

Col. Dorrance has been prominently identified with local affairs. He was, among many other trusts, a leader in the Luzerne County Agricultural Society, a jail commissioner and he holds the presidency of the Wyoming Bank, a position filled by his father half a century before him.

Col. Dorrance has indeed been favored by fortune and by health, and now, with his family around him and with a well-earned reputation for industry and integrity he ought to be able to enjoy his 82d birthday with an unusual degree of pleasure.

### The Old Sullivan Road.

The second of a series of articles running in the *Guardian*, a Reformed Church publication printed in Philadelphia, appears in the December issue of that journal. The editor—Rev. H. M. Kieffer, A. M.—relates the story of the massacres at Wyoming and Cherry Valley in 1778, and the determination of Washington to avenge these atrocities, the article closing with a brief sketch of Gen. Sullivan, who was selected to chastise the savages.





**A Princeton Lady Dead.**

From a recent number of the Princeton (N. J.) *Press* we learn of the death of Mrs. Susan Breese Packard, wife of Prof. Packard, of Princeton College, and a cousin of Rev. E. Hazard Snowden, of this valley. Her maternal grandfather, Rev. Samuel Finley Snowden, was from 1795 to 1801 first pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Princeton. She was a descendant in the fifth generation of Benjamin Fitz Randolph, one of the prominent men of Princeton in his time. The connections of her family in different generations included such names as Finley, Breese and Bayard, names that Princeton loves to honor. Her life prior to her marriage had been spent mainly at Orange and Bloomfield, N. J., the scenes of the former pastorate of her father, Rev. Joseph S. Gallagher. Prior to entering the ministry her father spent 20 years in the National service as assistant astronomer and as an artillery officer. Mrs. Packard lost an only daughter four years ago and she gradually declined from that time. She will be lovingly remembered by such of the students as knew her.

**A Pioneer Physician's Widow Dead.**

GORMAN—In Providence, Jan. 23, 1887, Mrs. Louis Beecher Gorman, relict of the late James T. Gorman, M. D., aged 92 years and 6 months.

Mrs. Gorman was the relict of the late James T. Gorman, M. D., one of the pioneer physicians of Northeastern Pennsylvania. She was born in Litchfield County, Conn., July 29, 1794, of sturdy New England stock, her childhood was passed in her native county, amid surroundings and influences that tended to the development of deep, strong and abiding virtues. In 1816 she was united in marriage to James T. Gorman, M. D., and in 1836 removed to Abington, where her husband was contemporaneous with the late genial and warm-hearted Dr. Nichols and the venerable and much esteemed Dr. Andrew Bedford—now living. For twenty years she assisted her husband in the arduous duties of his profession, incident to a wide practice in a new and sparsely settled region, until his death in 1856, riding with him often night and day to visit the sick and administer to the wants of the distressed. With a mind keenly sensitive to the needs of humanity, with a heart charitable and ever sympathetic with suffering, and with an energy that never flagged nor faltered, her active life abounded in good deeds. She was the mother of the late Chas. Gorman, M. D., of Pittston; Mrs. I. V. Lynch, of Waverly, and Mrs. D. C. Stanton, of Abington.—*Seranton Republican*.

**Half a Century in Old Luzerne.**

Albert McAlpine, whose death occurred at Pleasant Valley on Jan. 19, was for several years a resident of Wilkes-Barre Township, and was well-known to the older portion of our citizens. He was a native of Winchester, Connecticut, was born April 23, 1813, and came to Wilkes-Barre when 20 years of age. For a time he assisted his brother, Hiram McAlpine, in the management of his factory at Laurel Run, where the latter had established a turning shop in connection with the business of manufacturing scythe snaths, hay-forks, wooden measures, etc., on an extensive scale, by the aid of water power belonging to his father-in-law, Hezekiah Parsons, father of the present Calvin Parsons, of the borough of that name.

He removed to what is now known as Pleasant Valley when the whole country was a wilderness and settled on a tract of wild land, but farming was found not to be a congenial occupation and he soon started the business of manufacturing powder kegs and wooden pulps by machinery, which business he conducted successfully until his factory was destroyed by fire, in which he sustained a heavy loss.

He was thrice married; his first wife being Mary Ann Wright, daughter of Josiah Wright, a well-known citizen of Wilkes-Barre. No issue was left by this marriage, but he leaves a family of sons and daughters all grown to man and womanhood; three sons of the second wife, and two daughters and one son by his surviving widow. The deceased was an honest, conscientious citizen, upright and just to all; one who, after more than half a century's residence and business career amongst us, has left to his children as their chief inheritance an unsullied reputation.

In speaking of the death of Albert McAlpine recently Capt. Calvin Parsons remarked that in 1828 the former's brother, Hiram, came to Wyoming Valley on a business trip and sold Mr. Parsons' father a shingle machine, the trip resulting not only in the sale but in Mr. M.'s falling in love with his customer's daughter, whom he married three years later. In 1833 Calvin Parsons was on one of his carriage trips from Wilkes-Barre to Connecticut and while at New Marlboro he met his brother-in-law, Albert McAlpine, who rode back to Wyoming Valley with him. Mr. Parsons speaks in the highest terms of deceased and states that the friendship formed in that early day was never dimmed for a moment by the lapsing years and that in his death the community lost an upright and useful citizen.

The funeral of Mr. McAlpine took place at the Presbyterian Church, Pleasant Valley, January 21, and a large concourse





of people attended. The exercises were conducted by Rev. Dr. N. G. Parke, assisted by the resident pastors of the borough. Dr. Parke made a most feeling address and all the people were deeply moved, deceased having been held in the highest esteem by all classes of people in Pleasant Valley. Interment was in the burying ground adjoining the church. W. J.

#### Valuable Newspaper Relic.

Dr. Throop, of Scranton, is the owner of a valuable relic of Pennsylvania journalism in the shape of a file of the famous *Porcupine's Gazette*, which, for a time, the great historian and grammarian, William Cobbett, made famous. This file dates from June 15, 1797, to Oct. 18, 1797, and is remarkably well preserved, which latter fact is partly due to the excellent care the doctor has taken of the papers, and partly from the fact that the paper is hand-made and has a "body" which cannot be found in latter day papers.

The proprietor states in a modest headline that his paper "is published every evening by William Cobbett, opposite Christ's Church." The news published in the papers alluded to, consists chiefly of the proceedings of Congress, which at that time held its sessions in Philadelphia, and letters from a few European capitals. Among the advertisements is one signed by the publisher offering a reward of \$500 for the detection of "any postmaster or deputy" who tampered with the *Gazette* while it was en route to its subscribers. Such work seems to have been prevalent in those days, and Mr. Cobbett stigmatizes it as "dastardly and assassin-like."--*Republican*.

#### Letter from Mr. Yarrington.

In a letter to the *RECORD* under date of Carbondale, Jan. 15, Mr. Dilton Yarrington says:

Enclosed you will find stamps sufficient to pay for two of your almanacs. I am just getting up from a severe cold and attack of rheumatism, that has confined me to the house more than a month. I improve slowly indeed.

Since writing the above I received the last week's *RECORD*, in which I noticed the death of Judge Charles T. Barnum. In 1828 Sloan Hamilton was editor of a paper at Dandaff, called the *Dundaff Republican*. Charles T. Barnum was his apprentice. He was a slender little fellow, very bright and intelligent, and was much loved and respected by Mr. Hamilton's family, and everybody else that became acquainted with him. I remember his parents well, when they lived in Kingston, when Charles was a little boy, in 1817 and 1818.

#### The Pennsylvanian's Lament.

Many of our readers will remember Charles W. Foster, who about 1872 or 1873 came here from Mauch Chunk and kept a music store on Market Street in Chahoon Hall building. Mr. Foster, who is a brother of Mrs. Thomas W. Brown, of this city, soon after went into Philadelphia journalism as a reporter on the *Press*, becoming managing editor of the *Evening News* in the centennial year and in 1883 being called to the same position on the *Curt*, then starting. The loss of his wife in 1885, a young writer known as "Florida Hale," was a blow which for a time crushed him in body and brain and he was an invalid for a year. During last year, however, he accepted a position on the *Omaha World* where he is winning laurels as a humorist. The *Omaha Republican* speaks of him as "of a quiet, retiring disposition, as near a recluse as it is possible for a newspaper writer to become, and of a thoughtful, serious nature, more given to philosophy than fun. He takes little pride in his humorous work, but it has from the first been extensively quoted, not only throughout the United States but in Canada and England. He proposes, he says, to stick to it until the public becomes as tired of it as he is."

The latest we have seen from his pen is the following, entitled "The Pennsylvanian's Lament:"

How sweet to my ears are the names of my childhood,

The names Pennsylvanians worship for aye,  
Aboriginal cognomens heard in the wildwood

When Indians traversed the Minnequa way—  
Tunkhannock, Tamaqua and Hockendock-qu-a,

Tumanend, Tobyhanna and Tonawan-da,  
Meshoppen, Tomensing and Catasaw-qu-a,

I love you, I greet you, sweet sounds of PA.

How mountain and meadow, and rill and ravine,

The broad Susquehanna and Wyoming's ray,  
Spring forth in the landscape by memory seen—

The Lehigh, the Schuylkill and Lackawan-na,  
Lycoming, Shamokin, Monongahela,

Kittannig, Perkasio and Shenando-a,

Towamencin—another, not spelled the same way—

I love you, I greet you, sweet sounds of PA.

The rivulet's warble and the cataract's roar.

The names that I cherish wherever I stray—  
Manayunk, Conshohocken, Monococcy-more,

Nanticoke, Kittatinny, Shickshinny, Hey!

Day!

How heart leaps at mention of Catawis-sa,  
Mahanoy, Nesquehoning, how soothing the lay!

Lackawaxen, Shackamaxon, Perkiomen—  
what, pray,

Is sweeter than Mauch Chunk (Mockchuak so  
they say)—

I love you, I greet you, sweet sounds of PA.

Illinois has a citizen named Gotobed. He  
is in no danger of being a night editor.





## WILLIAM MILL BUTLER.

## Sketch of a Former Wilkes-Barre Journalist Who is Winning His Way to Fame.

The Rochester correspondent of the *Buffalo Express*, gives the following sketch of William Mill Butler, a former well-known journalist of this city:

Few men are better known in this city and few journalists in this State than William Mill Butler, who has had a career allotted to him the like of which probably no one in his profession has ever experienced. Very little of his life has ever been made public, although the *Journalist* has had one or two articles about him. At a very early age Mr. Butler became fully acquainted with the hard lot in life awaiting him. He was but little over eight years old when he was sent to work in a coal breaker. At six he had already been taught by his mother to read German and English. At twelve he went to work in the mines. For two years he lived an underground life, gaining an experience which I understand will be found portrayed in a novel which he has nearly completed. At fourteen, in January, 1872, he met the fate of so many of the workers in the mines, being run over and crushed by a loaded car. After some weeks he recovered and returned to work in the mines but in a few days broke down. A relative took him to Canada, where he was sent to school. He was clerk, bookkeeper and cashier for a time, and began verse-writing. His contributions brought him to the notice of Mr. B. H. Pratt, then city editor of the *Scranton Daily Times*. The result was that he entered the employ of that paper. He conducted the Wilkes-Barre department of the *Scranton Times* for over six months. He became city editor of the *Wilkes-Barre Daily Record*, but overworked himself and again broke down. In March, 1877, he became local editor of the *Galt, Ont., Reformer*, acting as correspondent for the *Hamilton, (Ont.) Daily Spectator*, and contributing humorous articles and verses to *Grip*, the *Canadian Puck*. Returning to Pennsylvania in June, 1878, he was placed in charge of the *Berwick Independent*. In 1879 he began the satire *Pantaletta*, the authorship of which has never before been divulged. In that year he became a member of the staff of the *Evening Express* in this city. He has since held various positions on the Rochester press. He wrote a hoax concerning an alleged case in court, in which the details were given of the trial and conviction of a young lady for wearing a high hat at the theatre and obstructing the view of a spectator. So circumstantial was the sketch that it deceived hundreds of people who

flocked to the court house next day to hear Miss Viola Weatherwax sentenced. It caused a sensation throughout the country. Even as experienced a journalist as James Foster Coates, of New York, telegraphed for particulars. And away out in Kansas City two lawyers got into a dispute over the facts in the case, winding up with a wager, which was duly decided by a member of the Rochester bar, who was applied to in writing. For some months he has given his time mainly to literary work. He is compiling a dramatic dictionary, publishes the *Pythian Knight*, and is writing a play and a novel.

## Was President Polk in Wilkes-Barre?

The New York *Sun* has an article on an old gentleman, Elias Polk, who lately died in Nashville at the age of 80, and whose claim to distinction rested upon the fact that he was a slave in the Polk family and was body servant to President Polk. We clip a portion, though remarking that the older inhabitants do not recall any such visit of President Polk to the Wyoming Valley:

When Elias was about 12 years old he was given as a valet to James K. Polk, then a young man in college, and from that time till the President died the two were hardly separated for a week at one time. In those days all journeys had to be made by horse conveyance. It was Elias's custom to drive his master in his carriage to Washington. The first journey was made in 1826, when James K. Polk was elected member of Congress. On one of these trips, after the Tennessean had become President, a night was spent in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. The next morning, while Elias was in the stable getting his horses ready, several white men approached him and asked him if he didn't know he was free.

They told him that he was in a State where a man could not hold slaves, and all he had to do was to leave and his master couldn't do a thing.

"Do you think I would go back on de President dat way? No, sir. You don't know me. I'd sooner die than run off."

The President happened to be near and heard this. He was greatly pleased, and the next day surprised his faithful valet by speaking of it, and told him whenever he wanted his freedom he could have it. When his master died Elias remained with the family until after the war.

At the January meeting of the Oneida, N. Y., Historical Society that organization did our townsman, Hon. E. L. Dana, the honor of electing him to corresponding membership.





### Anthropophagy.

The RECORD is in receipt from Charles W. Darling, corresponding secretary of the Oneida Historical Society, Utica, N. Y., of an interesting 47 page pamphlet on "Anthropophagy, Historic and Prehistoric." Gen. Darling is an industrious delver in antiquarian matters, and this pamphlet, printed for private circulation is of particular interest. In it he traces man-eating, from the earliest times, even from the Cyclops of the Odyssey, through many nations down to the latest known instances of cannibalism, as in shipwrecks and other emergencies where life could be sustained in no other way, and among the savages of the African continent. The author states that the North American Indians frequently banqueted on human flesh. The Algonquins were wont to feed on the dead bodies of their enemies, in the belief that by devouring the flesh and blood of fallen foes, the eaters became possessed of their bravery. There also seems to be evidence that the Iroquois were cannibals to a certain extent, as were the Mohawks, in fact the literal meaning of "Mohawk" is said to be man-eater. The Ottawas are said to have devoured an occasional missionary of the Jesuits, while the Hurons were wont to feed on the roasted hearts of their prisoners, the information coming from 17th century Jesuit fathers who were eye witnesses of these practices.

Gen. Darling promises another paper, on Prehistoric Man, in which he will present many facts heretofore unpublished. It also will be privately printed.

### Lack of Historical Interest.

The Germantown *Telegraph* has a correspondent, "Iron Mask," who writes thus forcibly of a lack of interest in historical matters in old Bucks County, and as the remarks are equally applicable in old Luzerne we reprint them:

The session of the Historical Society was very slimly attended. A man must become a little musty before he takes any interest in local history. It is something like local geography. All school children know more about Timbuctoo and many countries of unpronounceable names than they do of the country they live in. Any question of local geography is a poser to archbishops. If you want to strike a public school dumb, ask it to find the township the school is situated in, or to name any considerable number of townships of the county. I do not know that it is of the last importance that children should know these things, nor do I deem it fatal to the child if he fails to tell an examining committee how high Mount Shasta is, or how far Pekin is from Honolulu. So it is with local history. Few people of any

locality know or care much about it. Young people do not pay the slightest attention to it. Hence it will be noticed that the persons who take any active interest in such matters are old fellows, or young fellows with abnormal old tastes. It cannot be expected that a local Historical Society will attract a large crowd until the younger strata of society begin to manifest a human interest in it.

### Coal Sixty-Four Years Ago.

[Extract from Harrisburg Chronicle, Dec. 2, 1822.]

"*Stone Coal.* It is stated in the Philadelphia papers that a large quantity of Lehigh coal lately arrived at that city which was selling at \$8 40 per ton. The New York papers in noticing this, preface it with *cheap fuel*, and so it is. But at Harrisburg it is much *cheaper*, and on the completion of the Union Canal it will be much cheaper at Philadelphia likewise. The late freshet gave an opportunity to our fellow citizens of Luzerne County to bring down the Susquehanna coal, of which they have inexhaustible beds, of the same description with the Lehigh coal—it sold out of the arks at less than \$4 per ton, and is retailed at \$4 25. Water communication through to Philadelphia being established, would reduce the price there at least 25 per cent."

### Paper Currency of 65 Years Ago.

Following is the sort of "paper money" we had in 1822 and for the benefit of their subscribers the newspapers published every week the amount of discount or depreciation in the exchangeable value of the banks' bills. The other States made a worse show than did Pennsylvania and New York. The next year Milton rose to 17, Centre, Greensburg and Brownsville rose to 6 each. You will notice two Canada banks in the New York list. The figures are taken from the Philadelphia *Bank Note Exchange*, Dec. 5, 1822:

State of New York banks—New York City banks, par; J. Barker's, no sale; Washington and Warren, 85; Albany, Troy, Mohawk and Lansingburg, 1 cent discount; Newburg, Catskill, Middle District, Auburn, Utica, Geneva, Col. at Hudson, Orange County, Ontario at Utica, one and a half cents discount; Plattsburg, 3 cents; Canada and Montreal, 5 cents.

Pennsylvania banks—Philadelphia, Harrisburg, Reading, Farmer's Laur, Easton, Northampton, Germantown, Montgomery County, Delaware County, Bucks County, Chester County, Lancaster, New Hope Bridge Co., 1; Carlisle, York and Chambersburg, each, 1½; Gettysburg and Pittsburg, each, 2; Milton, 20; Centre, 30; Greensburg, 8; Brownsville, 8.

H. B. P.





## BUSINESS MEN OF 1818.

Recollections of Dilton Yarrington, of Carbondale, Giving a Directory of Wilkes-Barre as it was in His Boyhood Days.

Dilton Yarrington, Esq., of Carbondale, was a Wilkes-Barrean in his younger days, and though now advanced in years he is fond of recalling the past and of putting his recollections on paper. Our readers have only recently been favored with something from his pen. Nearly 20 years ago he wrote for the Record, and we take pleasure in reprinting some of the matter furnished at that time, for the reason that many of our readers have never seen it and for another reason, that very few have access to files, even the Record office having no complete file. The letter we refer to is dated Carbondale, Dec. 14, 1868. In commenting on the list of business men of 1818, he omits himself, Wm. S. Ross, Lord Butler, Jr., Charles Tracy, Washington Ewing, Jacob E. Teetor, Chester A. Colt and David Connor, as being mere youths; Noah Wadhams and Jo hua Green, as not residents of Wilkes-Barre in 1818; Rev. Ard, Hoyt, he having gone as a missionary among the Indians in 1817. In his list he includes Abram Pike, "the Indian slayer," who though not strictly a business man in 1818, was yet a very important business man for his country in the time of her greatest need. "No man then living had rendered greater services to his country during the Indian wars than he. His name is familiar to all who have read Miner's 'History of Wyoming.'"

## COURT IN 1818.

Thomas Burnside, president judge, to August Term, 1818, at which term David Scott became president judge, Matthias Hollenback and Jesse Fell, associates.

## BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL MEN.

John P. Arndt, landlord, shipbuilder, etc.  
Philip Abbott, farmer.  
Abial Abbott, carpenter and joiner.  
Nathan Allen, carpenter.  
H. C. Aubiser, merchant.  
Lloyd Alkins, carpenter.  
William Apple, carpenter.  
Ziba Bennett, merchant's clerk.  
John L. Butler, coal operator.  
Burton Butler, farmer.  
Lord Butler, merchant, coal operator, etc.  
Steuben Butler, printer.  
Chester Butler, lawyer.  
Zebulon Butler, farmer.  
Pierce Butler, farmer.  
Eleazer Blackman, farmer.  
John Bettle, cashier of bank.  
Samuel D. Bettle, silversmith.  
Nathan Barney, farmer.  
Andrew Bolles, farmer.

Stephen Bowles, bookkeeper.  
Jonathan Bulkeley, sheriff.  
Eliphalet A. Bulkeley, clerk and book-keeper.  
Anthony Brower, tailor.  
Thomas Brown, farmer.  
William Brown, distiller.  
Brittania Barnes, merchant.  
Aaron Buty, painter.  
Moses Beamer, ferryman and laborer.  
Isaac Bowman, tanner and currier.  
Samuel Bowman, farmer and tanner.  
William L. Bowman, tanner and currier.  
Gilbert Barnes, carpenter.  
Alexander H. Bowman, U. S. Cadet.  
Horatio Bowman, ———.  
James W. Bowman, lawyer.  
Ebenezer Bowman, lawyer.  
Andrew Beaumont, postmaster.  
Henry Barrackman, farmer.  
Job Barton, carpenter.  
William and George Blane, farmers.  
Thomas Bartlett, school teacher.  
Josiah Brown, butcher.  
Miles B. Benedict, hatter.  
Gideon Bebee, ferryman.  
William Bolton, carpenter.  
Elisha Blackman, cabinet maker.  
Oristus Collins, lawyer.  
Putnam Catlin, lawyer.  
Charles Catlin, lawyer.  
George Chahoon, carpenter and joiner.  
A. O. Chahoon, merchant.  
Daniel Collings, silversmith.  
Mason Cray, doctor.  
Edward Covell, doctor.  
Arnold Colt, justice of peace.  
Henry Colt, surveyor.  
Harris Colt, U. S. soldier.  
John Cary, farmer.  
Eleazer Carey, justice of peace.  
George Clymer, merchant.  
William Cox, painter.  
John Covert, laborer.  
Richard Covert, stage driver.  
Joseph H. Chapman, ———.  
Edward Chapman, ———.  
Isaac A. Chapman, author.  
Jacob Cist, merchant.  
John Carkhuff, ———.  
Thomas J. Carkhuff, sheriff.  
Daniel Colkglaizer, school teacher.  
Samuel Colkglaizer, plasterer.  
Hugh and Cornelius Connor, carpenters.  
John and Peter Connor, carpenters.  
George Denison, lawyer.  
Thomas Dyer, lawyer.  
James Dickens, Revolutionary soldier.  
John and Robert Downer, U. S. soldiers.  
Anderson and Francis Dana, farmers.  
Chester Dana, river pilot.  
Jonathan and Bateman Downing, farmers.  
Reuben and Daniel Downing, farmers.  
Jonathan and David Dale, shoemakers.  
Eli and Aaron Downing, farmers.





Jesse Dowling, farmer.  
 F. Dupuy, tobacco and confectionery.  
 James Decker, farmer.  
 Jacob J. Dennis, cabinet maker.  
 William Dennis, gunsmith.  
 Thomas Davidge, shoe maker.  
 John Davis, farmer.  
 Thomas Dow, farmer.  
 Joseph Davis, carpenter.  
 Lewis Du Shong, merchant.  
 Louis Delamanon, merchant.  
 Benj. Drake, blacksmith.  
 Hiram Eicke, carpenter.  
 Geo. Eicke, teamster.  
 John Ewing, court crier.  
 Thomas, James and Geo. Ely, stage proprietors.  
 George Evans, lawyer.  
 Jesse Fell, associate judge.  
 Samuel Fell, carpenter.  
 Edward Fell, blacksmith.  
 Abel Flynt, tombstone maker.  
 Jabez Fish, farmer and teamster.  
 George Graves, laborer.  
 James Gridley, constable, etc.  
 Job Gibbs, carpenter.  
 John Greenawalt, miller and farmer.  
 Gordon Graves, tailor.  
 Luman Gilbert, laborer.  
 Dominick Germain, merchant.  
 Hugh Gorman, laborer.  
 Matthias Hollenback, associate judge.  
 G. M. Hollenback, merchant and banker.  
 Jonathan Hancock, landlord.  
 James Hancock, farmer.  
 Wm. and John Hancock, farmers.  
 Thomas Hutchins, harness maker.  
 John Hannis, farmer and teamster.  
 Joseph Hitchcock, carpenter.  
 George Hotchkiss, painter.  
 Jacob Hart, sheriff.  
 William Hart, ———.  
 Abram Hart, shoemaker.  
 George Haines, county surveyor.  
 Isaac Hartzell, justice of the peace.  
 Miller Horton, stage proprietor.  
 Jessie and Lewis Horton, stage proprietors.  
 Matthias Hoffman, shoemaker.  
 Oliver Helme, landlord.  
 James C. Helme, cabinet maker.  
 Patrick Hepburn, saddler.  
 Lewis Hepburn, lawyer.  
 Joseph Huckle, distiller.  
 Jacob Hulz, hatter.  
 Lathan W. Jones, doctor.  
 Joel and Joseph Jones, school teachers.  
 Amasa Jones, manufacturer.  
 Jehoida P. Johnson, miller and farmer.  
 John Jameson, Spring House keeper.  
 John M. Kienzie, high constable.  
 Jacob Kithline, baker.  
 Jacob Kyte or Coit, laborer.  
 Jacob Kutz, tailor.  
 Caleb Kendall, minister.  
 Lewis Ketcham, painter.

Gilbert and Glover Laird, shoemakers.  
 George Lane, minister.  
 James Luker, shoemaker.  
 Josiah Lewis, surveyor.  
 Elam Lowry, Lord Butler's teamster.  
 Henry F. Lamb, druggist.  
 Peter P. Loop, merchant.  
 Washington Lee, lawyer.  
 Charles Miner, printer. [Left about 1818.]  
 Thomas W. Miner, doctor.  
 Joshua Miner, stone mason.  
 John Miller, sexton.  
 Garrick Mallery, lawyer.  
 Francis McShaue, cut nail maker.  
 Shepherd Marble, cut nail maker.  
 Thomas Morgan, landlord, stage proprietor.  
 William Miller, laborer.  
 Joseph McCoy, cashier and poet.  
 Felix McGuigen, laborer.  
 Abram Mock, landlord.  
 Samuel Maffet, printer.  
 Simon Monega, laborer.  
 Thomas Nutting, laborer.  
 John Ogden, ———.  
 Thomas B. Overton, lawyer.  
 Abram Pike, Indian killer.  
 Godfrey Perry, bookkeeper.  
 Benjamin Perry, transcribing clerk, H. of R.  
 Titus Prime, colored, ———.  
 Thompson Price, cooper.  
 Nathan Palmer, lawyer.  
 Thos. Paterson, blacksmith.  
 Archippus Parrish, landlord.  
 Geo. Peck, minister.  
 Thomas Quick, ———.  
 William Russell, potter.  
 William Ross, farmer.  
 A. H. Reeder, landlord.  
 Francis Rainow, ———.  
 David and William Richards, farmers.  
 Elijah Richards, farmer.  
 Geo. Root, stage driver.  
 Philip Rymer, cloth dresser.  
 Samuel Raub, farmer.  
 John Raymond, laborer.  
 Joel Rogers, minister.  
 Peter and Jack Rafferty, laborer.  
 Jacob Rudolph, shoemaker.  
 David Scott, president judge.  
 Joseph and Zebulon Slocum, blacksmiths.  
 Jonathan Slocum, farmer.  
 Zara Smith, druggist.  
 Henry and George Sively, farmers.  
 Benj. St. John, ———.  
 Jacob and Joseph Sinton, merchants.  
 Jacob Sills, farmer.  
 Abram Tolls, wagon maker.  
 Conrad Teetor, harness maker.  
 G. W. Trott, doctor.  
 Stephen Tuttle, merchant.  
 Henry Tillbury, farmer and teamster.  
 Peleg Tracy, gentleman.  
 Sydney Tracy, farmer.





Edwin Tracy, harness maker.  
 Charles Taintor, painter.  
 Abram Thomas, merchant.  
 Edmund Taylor, harness maker.  
 Barnet Uip, hatter.  
 M. Van Zeek, doctor.  
 Andrew Vogle, hatter.  
 Philip Weeks, farmer.  
 Seth Wilson, tailor.  
 Phineas Waller, farmer and distiller.  
 Lewis Worrell, potter.  
 Moses Wood, farmer.  
 Isaac Williams, basket maker.  
 Asa C. Whitney, doctor.  
 Josiah Wright, printer and editor.  
 Thomas Wright, farmer.  
 William Wright, school teacher.  
 Joseph Wright, doctor.  
 Daniel White, wagon maker.  
 Rosewell Wells, lawyer.  
 Ranslaer Wells, blacksmith.  
 Winthrop Wells, merchant.  
 Conrad Wickizer, farmer and teamster.  
 Peter and Luther Yarrington, blacksmith.  
 Henry Young, gunsmith.

#### An Old Academy Pupil Dead.

Dr. George Firman Horton died in Bradford County, December 20, 1886, having reached within a few days, the advanced age of 81 years. He was born 1806, and was the ninth child of Major John and Deborah (Terry) Horton. His mother's father, Parshall Terry, was one of the first forty to enter Wyoming Valley and settle in Kingston, and with his family, was in Forty Fort at the time of the massacre. His mother, at this time, was 11 years of age. Dr. Horton was born in Terry town, and at the age of 17 (1823) he gratified his thirst for knowledge by going on foot to Wilkes-Barre, a distance of sixty miles, where he entered the Wilkes-Barre Academy, then in charge of Prof. Orton. Here he was a classmate of the late Hendrick B. Wright. Later he received a scientific education at Van Ransselaer Polytechnic School, at Troy, of which he was the oldest living graduate (class of 1827) at the time of his death. He read medicine with Dr. Hayden, of Braintrim, now Wyoming County, and in 1829 entered upon a practice at Terry town, which became large and laborious, achieving a wide reputation as a skillful physician. In 1876 he published a genealogy of the Horton family, an elaborate work of some 400 pages. He was an ardent student of the natural sciences, an influential temperance and anti-slavery speaker, a prominent leader in Presbyterian circles, and, as a lengthy sketch in the *Towanda Reporter-Journal* says, "it is safe to say that no man in all that region will be more greatly missed, or was more greatly loved or more implicitly trusted than Dr. Horton."

Of the several surviving daughters one is the wife of the well-known historian of Bradford County, Rev. Dr. David Craft.

#### The Local Historian.

[North Wales Record.]

In reference to the statements made by local historians, we sometimes hear the sneer: "He never gets it right." Very likely the writer has made some error in name or circumstance, that call forth such comment from those unappreciative of the value of his work. These thoughtless critics, often malicious as well as heedless, never consider the vast number of things this same writer may succeed in getting right; many things, too, that otherwise would never have been preserved at all. Human testimony is fallible, and human judgment may be at fault, but there is not one of these local writers of history but who honestly endeavors to tell the truth—as, in fact, they have every motive to do. Theirs is largely a labor of love, at best. With laborious pains ancient records must be searched, old documents deciphered, journeys must be made, testimony collected from living witnesses, and concerning many possible suppositions the possibilities must be balanced. No one would be prompted to these things except he had innate taste and talent for such studies. An important work for historical literature is being done by such delvers. They turn aside from the multitude who are in eager pursuit of the selfish good of the present, to give their attention to recording and preserving what would otherwise pass into oblivion. They go down into minute details and work in a humble way in order that the greater writers of the future may have the material upon which to build a broader, nobler structure. All these writers of the present doubtless fail in some particulars, in errors of date, of name, in omission of some particulars, in infelicities of style or in slips of grammar. They must be judged by the value of their contributions as a whole, and not by their trifling mistakes. The pens of those who so glibly criticise will probably never contribute anything to our historical or other literature that is worth preserving.

John F. Meginness, editor of the *Williamsport Gazette and Bulletin*, is being urged by many friends to issue a new edition of his "History of the West Branch Valley," published over 30 years ago and now out of print. Correspondence from any persons interested in the matter would doubtless encourage Mr. Meginness to take some definite step.





### POSTMASTER BOGERT DEAD.

**After a Painful Illness of Eight Weeks, and a Brave Battling Against Disease, He Falls Into His Last Sleep.**

Postmaster Bogert died at a quarter past 11, Thursday night, Feb. 3, surrounded by his family and a few immediate friends. His life passed out painlessly, the pangs of dissolution having been averted by reason of a benumbing of the mental faculties of nearly a week's duration. He breathed gently away without a struggle.

Joseph Kirkendall Bogert was born at New Columbus, Luzerne County, July 16, 1845, and was consequently almost 42 years of age at the time of his death. His parents were Samuel and Elizabeth Bogert, the former of whom was a well known citizen of that part of the county. He died in 1881. The mother still survives and resides in this city.

The Bogerts are of Dutch origin and came to America with the earliest emigrants from Holland, settling in parts of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Many of the stock and name have achieved distinction in various professions and lines of business.

Deceased was the fifth of nine children, six boys and three girls, and this is the first death that has occurred among the number.

The Bogerts were in humble circumstances. Joseph attended the public schools at New Columbus and afterwards entered the Male and Female Academy, working in his father's carriage-making shop and on the farms in the vicinity during the vacations and paying for part of his tuition in work about the Academy building.

In 1863 he was 18 years of age. On June 23 of that year, he enlisted and was mustered into the United States service as a private in the 26th Pennsylvania militia. This regiment, with others, was on duty in this State and in Maryland during the invasion of the north by the Army of Northern Virginia, and had a sharp skirmish with Fitz Hugh Lee's forces not far from Harrisburg on June 30. The regiment was mustered out July 27th. He afterwards re-enlisted, this time as a private in the United States Signal Corps, and was mustered in April 4, 1864. He was first assigned to duty in the campaign against hostile Indians in Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas and Indian Territory, under orders from Headquarters Army of the Border, Gen. S. R. Curtis commanding. He was afterwards in the campaign against Price from the New to the Arkansas River on the Missouri and Arkansas border. There were engagements at Little Blue and Big Blue respectively on Oct. 21 and 22, and later on at many other points on the route. He was sent to the Department of the North-

west, after the completion of the campaign just mentioned, and took part in the Indian expedition up the Platte and Powder Rivers, which extended from July 1 to Nov. 4, and covered over 2,500 miles of previously unexplored territory, and was attended by many hardships and dangers. He was finally mustered out Dec. 9, 1865, at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

Returning to New Columbus he studied with Rev. Furman, a Baptist minister of the vicinity, with a view to fitting himself for the University at Lewisburg, at which latter institution he soon afterwards completed his studies, here as at New Columbus, paying in part for his tuition by labor about the building. After his graduation he came to Wilkes-Barre and entered the office of Hon. C. E. Wright as a student at law. He remained here nearly a year, earning his livelihood meanwhile as a correspondent for the Associated Press, the *Scranton Times* and other papers. Then he was offered and accepted a position as assistant clerk in the office of George P. Richards, clerk of the courts, and soon afterwards was promoted to charge of the office. At the expiration of Mr. Richards' term, in 1874, he was appointed, through the influence of Judge Rhone deputy clerk of the Orphans' Court, being the first incumbent of that office. While serving in this capacity he was nominated by the Democrats for the registership and at the ensuing election (1875) was elected by an enormous majority, several others on the same ticket being defeated.

In July, 1876, the publication of the *Luzerne Leader*, a weekly, was begun in Pittston by E. A. Niven and C. H. Chamberlin. In February of the following year it was removed to Wilkes-Barre, having been purchased by Mr. Bogert, associated with Geo. B. Kulp, Esq. The publication was continued in the Corn Exchange Building until January, 1879, when Bogert & Kulp, (under the name of the *Leader Publishing Co.*,) purchased and consolidated with it the old *Luzerne Union*, which had been for many years the Democratic organ of the county, when its name was changed to *Union-Leader*. On Oct. 1st, 1879, the publication of the *Daily Union-Leader* was commenced in the old *Union* building. In 1880, Mr. Bogert bought out Mr. Kulp's interest and from then on to the day of his death was sole publisher and editor. In 1884 the new building on North Main Street was occupied. These incidents and dates show with what skill, courage and pertinacity Mr. Bogert created, with very limited means, out of a small weekly the best known Democratic daily journal in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Mr. Bogert was always active in pol-





ities. He was twice chairman of the Democratic County Committee. In 1881 he was a candidate for State Treasurer before the Democratic Convention that finally, after nine ballots, nominated Orange Noble, of Erie. During the balloting Mr. Bogert was supported by a large contingent of delegates from this part of the State and several times in the progress of the contest his success seemed almost assured. That same evening he was elected by the convention chairman of the State Committee, and he got up out of his bed at the hotel to meet the committee sent to notify him of the honor. He reluctantly accepted it, but acquitted himself in the discharge of his duties in a manner that won golden opinions from the party managers. He was solicited to stand for the State Treasurership in 1883 and it is believed that he could have had the nomination that year, but he resolutely refused the use of his name.

He was a delegate frequently to State Conventions of his party, and was a delegate to the National Convention of 1884, by which President Cleveland was nominated. He was appointed postmaster of Wilkes-Barre in July, 1885 and took possession of the office Aug. 1st of that year.

A year or so ago he was honored with the presidency of the State Editorial Association. He was one of the presidents of the local board of trade, was a member of Masonic Lodge 61 and of several beneficial organizations, such as the Legion of Honor and the Heptasophs.

While at Lewisburg he united with the Baptist Church, but never became a member of the church in Wilkes-Barre, though being one of its financial supporters. His wife being a communicant in the Episcopal Church, Mr. Bogert was a frequent attendant upon the services at St. Stephens, and during his last illness was a recipient of the ministrations of Rev. Henry L. Jones.

At Philadelphia Mr. Bogert married, Dec. 31, 1879, Mary E. Patterson, who had been a prominent and successful teacher in the Wilkes Barre public schools and who is a well-known and estimable lady. She was at his bedside during almost every moment of his nearly eight weeks' confinement to his bed and endured the incident pains and fatigues with wonderful fortitude. They have one child living, a boy of 4 years, their first and only other one having died almost immediately after its birth.

The cause of Mr. Bogert's death was pyæmia or pus poisoning, originating in an abscess of the prostate gland; with this pneumonia was a temporary complication. At times it seemed almost certain that his vigorous constitution would enable him to throw the deadly poison off, but it was not

to be. It had secured too strong a grip before discovery, and would have killed an ordinarily robust man in half the time. He had in addition to the care of his patient wife and watchful family, that of skilled physicians like Drs. Mayer, Guthrie and Murphy and a certificated nurse from the Blockley Hospital at Philadelphia. It was not in the power of human skill or affection to further put off dissolution.

In the brief space permitted after the midnight hour in which to sum up the characteristics of a life now ended, words fail in which to pen the picture. Mr. Bogert was untiring, brave and generous and had achieved a degree of worldly success, rare for a man of his years and with the limited advantages at his disposal. Had he lived he would undoubtedly have become a man of unusual mark, not only as a leader in the business and politics of the community, but in the ever widening sphere of journalism and State politics.

As a politician he was aggressive, but believing his principles were right he battled for Democracy, not only against the open foe of Republican opponents, but against the advocates of schism within the ranks of his own party. This being the case, his path as a politician was not strewn with roses, but he followed it faithfully to the end, believing it was the path of duty.

Honest in his dealings with his fellow men, energetic in the discharge of every business and social duty, enterprising in the little world of local journalism, an affectionate son, a devoted husband and a loving father, he has left a vacant place that will be hard to fill—indeed, it can never be fully filled.

The Record management, with whom his business and professional relations have always been of the most friendly character, lament his loss and beg to add their sympathy to that of the host of friends who will offer their consolation.

We deem it proper to say, at this juncture, that a movement is on foot among the friends of Mr. Bogert to bring about the appointment of his widow as his successor in the postoffice, and that such an appointment would be eminently satisfactory to the community, without any reference to political affiliations. Fully competent to discharge the duty, Mrs. Bogert, who, we learn, is not left with very ample provision for her future maintenance, would grace the position, and Congressman Lynch could popularize himself in no more thorough way than by using his influence in accordance with the movement already mentioned, and which originated among the veterans of the Grand Army of the Republic, of which deceased was a comrade.

Under instructions from the Postoffice





Department, A. R. Brundage, Esq., one of the late Mr. Bogert's bondsmen, took possession of the office Friday and placed E. K. Bogert, the chief deputy, in charge of the office as acting postmaster. Mr. Bogert took the oath before United States Commissioner Hahn, and the business of the office will proceed as usual without any interruption.

#### Death of D. O. Bartlett.

Brief mention was made in the RECORD on the day following of the death of Orrin D. Bartlett, which occurred from sciatic rheumatism at Towanda, Jan. 20. Deceased was known in Wilkes-Barre, he having married for his second wife, Miss Sarah F. Tracy, of Wilkes-Barre, who died July 5, 1878.

From the Towanda papers we glean the following:

Orrin Daniel Bartlett, son of Daniel and Jane Scott Bartlett, was born in Berkshire County, Mass., Aug. 30, 1814. At the age of 10 he came with his parents to Pennsylvania. Along with Dr. John N. Weston, Mr. M. C. Mereur, Hon. David Wilmot and others he organized the parish of Christ Church, Towanda, Dec. 20, 1841, and was very active in promoting its interests. He was baptized Sept. 24, 1843. He received the rite of confirmation Nov. 9, 1845, from Bishop Alonzo Potter. He took his part as a member of the choir, as superintendent of the Sunday school or as a teacher in it, and as one of the Church Wardens through a course of many years. Very often did he also act in the capacity of lay reader in conducting the services in the absence of a clergyman.

His name is largely associated with the business interests of Towanda for a long period. He was in mercantile life for about twenty-four years from 1837, and for many years afterwards was engaged in manufacturing. Meantime, from 1841 and up to the time of his death, he had been in the insurance business.

Deceased was twice married, his first wife being Miss Mary Weston, daughter of the late John N. Weston, M. D., formerly sheriff of the county. She died 26 years ago on 20th of January. Mr. Bartlett, for weeks prior to his death, entertained a premonition that he would die on the anniversary of her death, which proved true. Of this union all his children were born, of whom three sons survive him: Rev. Franklin W. Bartlett, now an Episcopal minister, stationed at Williamstown, Mass.; Dr. Henry Arthur Bartlett, of Sugar Run, and Charles Graham Bartlett, and three daughters: Mrs. Mary F. Macfarlane, Mrs. Harriet A. Tracy, of this place, and Mrs. Cora E. Eichelberger, of Ohio.

#### A MYSTERIOUS PACKAGE.

Some Old Papers That Were Found by the Wayside Referring to Local Affairs at the Beginning of the Century.

[Reprinted from RECORD of Nov. 24, 1884.]

A short time ago a bundle of old letters and other papers was picked up by some one on the Plymouth road, in the vicinity of the new Woodward shaft, and as the contents bore the name of Zebulon Butler, they found their way into the hands of Pierce and George H. Butler, Esq., of Kingston. No one knows from whence they came nor anything concerning their preservation or custody since they were in Capt. Butler's keeping almost three-quarters of a century ago. These papers have been sent to the RECORD office for our inspection, and we have taken the liberty of making a few extracts therefrom. The Zebulon Butler mentioned was not the Col. Butler of colonial fame, but his son Zebulon, a grandson of Rev. Jacob Johnson, the pioneer congregational preacher of the gospel at Wyoming.

One of the documents is a plan for the organization of a volunteer military company to be known as the Wyoming Blues. It is very neatly written, but on coarse, unruled paper, and directs a uniform of a "dark blue short coat or sailor's jacket, faced and trimmed with scarlet; white waistcoat and blue pantaloons, edged with scarlet; black stock and high crowned hat, with bear skin on the same." The description of the uniform now finds its way into print for the first time. Any person appearing intoxicated on parade was to be fined 50 cents for first offense and for second to be ignominiously expelled. Captain Butler was a strict disciplinarian and his company is said to have been one of the best drilled in this part of the State. It was a particularly aristocratic company for those days, and the Gordon papers tell us that Mr. Butler was elected captain in 1811. The company ceased to exist in 1814.

There is considerable correspondence between Capt. Butler and Colonel John Spalding, of Sheshequin, on business topics. In one from Mr. Spalding, dated Ulster, March 10, 1810, he says, "It is the same old story—no money in the country, but counterfeit and that chiefly at Towanda." We don't like to expose our up river friends, but the truths of history must be told. In a postscript he lets out a few family secrets when he writes: "We are all well except Mrs. Spalding and she is grumbling with the old complaint;" he, however, leaves us in the dark as to what the old complaint is, but probably Capt. Butler understood the situation. In a letter to Capt. Butler the same correspondent writes from Sheshequin, "I was disap-





pointed of coming down about my cloth at the taylor's. I hear he has gone from there and I am fearful he has taken my cloth, unless he has left it with you." It must have been a pretty serious undertaking to have a coat made in those days when a man had to travel from Sheshequin, 80 miles distant, to Wilkes-Barre to find a competent tailor, and then, what a disappointment to have him run away with the cloth and trimmings, and a military coat at that, probably, as further on he directs his "soard and appolett's" to be sent by Isaac Shepherd, or the post.

Luther Goddard writes in January, 1807, from Burlington to Mr. Butler, stating that "Different to my expectations and greatly to my damage I have never received those stills that I purchased of you." Probably the old Butler still-house on Coal Brook, near the present Conyngham shaft, was just then in good running order, and the people of Wilkes-Barre were in great need of whisky, so the stills could not be spared.

There is an original warrant issued by Lord Butler, county treasurer, dated Dec. 13, 1801, for the collection of \$172.89½ tax assessed against Roger Searl of Pittston township, who had paid a portion, leaving a balance of \$69.48½ still due. On the back of the warrant is the endorsement, "Levied the within warrant on two cows, two oxen and two horses as the property of said Searl—so answers Jonathan Hancock, sub-sheriff, for Benjamin Dorrance, sheriff."

There is also a blank petition to the Right Worshipful Grand Master Masons of Pennsylvania, in the usual form of a Master Mason, asking privilege to be allowed to pass the master's chair by dispensation.

A list of "vendue notes," probably at the sale of the Butler personal property after his death (1816), includes the names of the principal citizens of Wilkes-Barre of that day; such as Archippus Parrish, Wm. Ross, Harris Colt, John P. Arndt, Samuel Maffet, Chas. Catlin, Garrick Mallery, Jacob Babb, C. Courtright 2d, Parley Lyons, S. Van-Loon, Job Barton, Seth Wilson, Samuel Bowman. The names of Hezekiah Parsons, Harris Jenkins and Thomas, Daniel and John Davenport appear among those who paid their bills and did not give notes for the amounts of purchase.

A bill against the Butler estate in favor of Brown & Lyon shows that the price of farm produce, especially oats, was well up at that day (1816), as there is a charge for fifty bushels of seed oats, \$37.50, while the price of horse hire was quite the reverse: a charge for two horses and wagon, 28 days' hauling hay and harvesting, is put down at \$23 only.

It would appear that "going to mill" was one of the ordinary items of expense in housekeeping in those days, as there are several charges of Enos going to Wright's

mill, 50 cents each. This same establishment comes down to our own day, venerable with the historic associations of nearly a century—having been established in 1795—but has for many decades been known by the present name of the borough in which it stands—Miner's Mills.

Trouble about election matters seems to have vexed politicians even as early as 1807. In a letter to Isaac Cash from Capt. Butler, he says, in speaking of an approaching election, "I am confident that people in that quarter have an idea of holding back to take advantage of our splitting, but there is no probability of there being more than three or four candidates." What the office to be filled was we are not informed.

A letter dated Jan. 18, 1811, says he had expected his brother Steuben to go into business with him, but that Steuben had concluded to remain in the printing trade. The latter took charge of the *Luzerne Federalist* and was identified with Wilkes-Barre journalism many years after, he surviving his half brother Zebulon a period of 67 years, his death being quite recent.

#### A Pennsylvania Historical Novel.

Hon. William Bross, ex-Lieutenant Governor of Illinois, has recently completed a historical novel, the scene of which is located on the Wallenpaupack, among the mountains and forests of Pike County, Gov. Bross was born and grew to young manhood at Milford, Pike County. The Presbyterians of that place have erected a fine brick church upon the site of the wooden structure in which his father was for so long a deacon that he was through the after years of his life known as "Deacon Bross." The spire of the new building is not yet finished, but when it is it will have in it a 1,200 pound bell and a tower clock which have been presented to the society by "the Governor." Mr. Bross is intensely interested in Wyoming history and came here from his Chicago home in 1878 to attend the centennial of the massacre. He is a most genial gentleman and is identified as a director, trustee or other officer with many of the educational, historical and religious societies of Chicago. He is also pre-ident of the Chicago Tribune Publishing Co., and as such he has rendered many a favor to young newspaper men struggling for position.

Mr. C. F. Hill, of Hazleton, contemplates writing a history of that region of the Susquehanna lying between Berwick and Sunbury. He has accumulated a fund of valuable information as to early times in that region, a region intimately associated with pioneer life in old Wyoming.





## HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

**Twenty-ninth Annual Meeting—Interesting Resume of Progress Made—Two Valuable Papers Read.**

The Wyoming Historical and Geological Society held their annual meeting Feb. 11, at noon at the society rooms, Judge Dana presiding. There were present, Judge Dana, Dr. Ingham, S. Reynolds, Edward Welles, Rev. H. E. Hayden, W. P. Miner, C. Parsons, J. W. Hollenback, G. B. Kulp, H. H. Harvey, G. M. Reynolds, Adj. Wright. The annual election of officers resulted as follows:

President—Hon. E. L. Dana.

Vice Presidents—Dr. C. F. Ingham, Rev. H. L. Jones, Capt. Calvin Parsons, Hon. Eckley B. Cox.

Recording Secretary—S. C. Struthers.

Corresponding Secretary—Sheldon Reynolds.

Librarian—Hon. J. R. Wright.

Assistant Librarian—G. Mortimer Lewis.

Treasurer—A. H. McClintock.

Carators—Dr. C. F. Ingham, Conchology and Mineralogy; S. Reynolds, Archaeology; Rev. H. E. Hayden, Numismatics, R. D. Lacoe, Paleontology.

Meteorologist—Hon. E. L. Dana.

Historiographer—George B. Kulp.

Trustees—Dr. Charles F. Ingham, Edward P. Darling, Ralph D. Lacoe, Edward Welles, Hon. Charles A. Miner.

Report was made by Mr. Kulp of the death of five members, all occurring within three months: Dr. Hodge, Martin Coryell, John Wroth, Isaac Lea, J. K. Bogert.

Judge Dana submitted weather report for last two months, which we condense as follows:

December—Lowest temperature, 17th, two below zero, only date below zero, average temperature for month, 21½ degrees; total rain fall, 1.68 inches; snow fall, 9 inches.

January—Lowest temperature, 8th, five degrees below zero; mercury below zero, 3d, 4th, 8th and 27th; average temperature for month, 23 degrees; rained 8 days; snowed 7 days; total rainfall, 3.03 inches; depth of snow, 9 inches.

A balance of \$247 was reported in the treasury.

The following reports were made:

Archaeology—The cabinet has been increased during the year by the addition of 387 arrow and spear points, 3 stone axes, 8 celts, 8th and 27th; average temperature for month, 23 degrees; rained 8 days; snowed 7 days; total rainfall, 3.03 inches; depth of snow, 9 inches.

The larger part were pre-ented by Henry C. Wilson, they having been found near his home, Mt. Vernon, O. Mr. Lung, and James Crockett also contributed valuable specimens.

Library—During the year there have been

added 432 bound volumes, 517 pamphlets, 24 broadside sheets, 4 manuscripts and a large number of current newspapers and files. The library now contains 4,010 bound and about 300 unbound volumes, exclusive of duplicates, of which there are 2000. The library has been open each week day from 9 am. to 5:30 pm.

Conchology—Two specimens donated, and 363 received through exchange.

Mineralogy—Ninety-nine specimens donated.

The following members were elected: Miss Carrie M. Alexander, Reuben Jay Flick, Ambrose Reese, Warren Jay Flick, Liddon Flick.

Adjournment was had until 8 pm., at which time the society reassembled, with a large audience present, the room being filled.

Acknowledgment was made of contributions from the following donors:

Library—Hon. J. A. Scranton, Newport Historical Pub. Co., *Telephone*, R. Baur & Son, *Express, News-Dealer*, Wyoming Bank, R. B. Bruudage, Y. M. C. A., Geo. Sheldon, Middlebury (Vt.) His. Soc., Bureau of Education, American Philosophical Soc., Dr. D. G. Brinton, Library Co. of Phil., His. & Phil. Soc. of Ohio, Dr. W. H. Egle, Col. Reynolds, Sheldon Reynolds, Dr. Henry Phillips, Jr., Cayuga Co. His. Soc., American Geographical Soc., Hon. J. R. Wright, Lackawanna Institute of History and Science, B. Reynolds, American Congregational Ass'n, Minnesota His. Soc., Dr. H. Hakes, Georgia His. Soc., H. G. Merrill, F. C. Johnson, U. S. Geological Survey, Iowa His. Soc., H. R. Detrick, G. B. Kulp, E. L. Dana, Gen. C. W. Darling, RECORD, T. H. Atherton, S. C. Struthers, People's Bank, A. Hunlock, I. A. Stearns.

Aboriginal implements—S. Reynolds, James Crockett.

Geological specimens—Edward Welles, F. Mercur, R. H. Peterson.

Miscellaneous—Capt. O. A. Parsons, Adam Behee.

A neatly framed pen drawing was presented, which is described by its title: "A partial map of the towns of Pittston, Plains and Wilkes-Barre, showing the names of nearly all the settlers in 1837. Drafted from the memory of R. W. Hinckley, a teacher and merchant in the valley from 1837 to 1843. Drawn by R. P. Hinckley, Bridgeport, Ct. Presented by R. W. Hinckley, publisher, 165 Chambers Street, New York City."

Samuel W. Pennyacker was elected a corresponding member.

A portrait of Timothy Pickering was presented by Miss Mary Bowman.

Judge Dana read an interesting annual report as president, showing the progress made and making numerous suggestions as to the





future. He recommended branching out into the natural sciences.

Capt. James P. Dennis read a capital paper on the list of buildings in the borough in 1819 as he remembered them. Only a portion of the paper was read, Capt. Dennis being invited to present another installment later.

Dr. Ingham read an account of the New Brunswick mineral called albertite, believed to be an altered petroleum. The paper was interesting, but rather technical for the average lay mind.

The lecture room of the society is so ill adapted for lectures, having wretched acoustic properties and absolutely no ventilation, that few persons could have sat through the session with much physical comfort. Such a room would kill any but a phenomenally robust organization.

Mr. Kalp presented biographical sketches of members deceased during the year, mentioned above.

The committee appointed to confer with the directors of the Osterhout Free Library, relative to quarters in the proposed building, reported to the effect that the Osterhout directors had decided to utilize the Presbyterian Church building for from 5 to 10 years, and would be willing that the Historical Society have the Sunday school addition for their purposes, should it be suitable. It is of brick, 35x46 feet, two stories high, the ground floor seating 200 persons, the second having two rooms, each 22x34 feet in size. The building has light on three sides and is comparatively safe as to fire. The committee favored the acceptance of the offer and were continued with discretionary powers.

The *Harrisburg Telegraph* for Jan. 29, contains an interesting sketch on the "Underground Railway," and of William Rutherford, a notable abolitionist who lived in the Paxtang Valley. A tribute is also paid to William (or "Pap") Jones, of Harrisburg. The writer, "W. F. R.," thus speaks of him: "Pap Jones" was a large, well built man, of pure African descent, and possessed in a large measure that quality known among colored men as "Coon sense," which being interpreted, means genius, with a large share of cunning superseded. For many years Mr. Jones was one of the most efficient men connected with the "Underground Railroad" in this locality. He had acquired a thorough knowledge of the routes leading northward and was always prepared to furnish competent guides. His large covered wagon, drawn by two horses and driven by himself in the capacity of rag merchant, was frequently to be met with on the roads leading towards Wilkes-Barre or Pottsville.

#### The Pennsylvania Germans.

A treatise which will be of great interest and value to the Pennsylvania Germans of Lancaster, York, Lebanon, Berks, Dauphin, Lehigh and other German counties of Pennsylvania, has just been completed by Dr. W. J. Hoffman, member of the United States Ethnological Bureau for scientific publication.

It is an ethnological and philological history of the Pennsylvania Germans. The work embraces a dictionary and grammar of the language, the customs, superstitions, folk-lore, medical practices, powwowing, etc., of those people. A valuable linguistic comparison of the Pennsylvania German dialect of to-day, and the Pfalz dialect, particularly the Bavarian, is introduced, which shows that the language now spoken by the Pennsylvania Germans is identical with the Bavarian dialect a century and a quarter ago, but somewhat different from the modern dialect. This is explained by the fact that the Pennsylvania German has preserved its Bavarian identity as against English in Pennsylvania, while the Bavarian dialect has been materially modified by contact with other Teutonic dialects and the German proper. The work is of greater scope than has yet been undertaken in establishing the ethnologic and linguistic identity of that numerous and influential body of the people of Pennsylvania from the time of the Cretfeld settlers at Germantown, under Daniel Francis Pastorius in 1682, down through the enormous tide of emigration from the Pfalz provinces which crowded into the Province of Pennsylvania until the time of the Revolution. The present dialect of the descendants of these early fathers of the Teutonic people of Pennsylvania shows its Bavarian origin with an admixture of the dialects of Baden and Wurtemberg and words from the Welsh and Irish settlers of the German counties of the State. Dr. Hoffman during his service as surgeon in the Franco-Prussian war in the Seventh army corps, under the famous old warrior, Steinmetz, and afterwards at the headquarters of Prince Frederick Charles, of Bavaria, at Verney, three miles below Metz, had ample opportunities to make investigations, which he has since followed up, and which have culminated in his present work. Special interest will attach to this work, in view of the rapidity with which, in later years, Pennsylvania Dutch has disappeared from popular use.—*Harrisburg Telegraph*.





## A FRONTIER HERO

Who was a Prisoner Among the Indians  
two Years—His Services Recognized by  
the Legislature a Quarter of a Century  
Later.

EDITOR RECORD: Allow me to present the following as a memorial of a brave and true soldier of the Revolutionary War, Capt. Joseph Solomon or (Salmon), of Col. James Murray's Regiment of Northumberland County Militia. It is not known whether Capt. Solomon was related to John Solomon, a soldier in the French and Indian War, or not. Of his parentage little seems to be known. However his memory richly deserves this humble notice. The following letter from Gen. James Potter to President Reed bearing date Sunbury, April 12th, 1781, will bear publishing.

Sir: I Arrived at My house on Sunday last and on Monday I came to this place and since I have made a Visit to different parts of the frontiers who I find in great distress. Numbers of them flying for their lives at this early Season of the year. The enemy has made five different strokes on our frontiers since the 22d of March. On the Sixth instant they fired on an old Man, his Son and daughter, the Boy was shot dead and the Indians immediately made a prisoner of the Young woman. The old Man had a stick in hand with which he nobly defended himself against one of the Indians who had a tomahawk and made the fellow drop his Wapon. Col Kelley with a few of his Neighbours was in a house at a little distance. On hearing the enemy guns go off they ran to the place and obliged the enemy to retreat leaving the Young Woman there prisoner and our brave old Irishman and his stick behind them and all their Blankets. They outran Col Kelly and his party and got off as Usile

On Sabbathday last the eight instant, in the evening they came to the House of one Durmes about five miles from this place. Immediately on their entering the house they shot Dunn and Tooker one Captain Solomon a prisoner. There were four Women and an number of Children in the House. They plundered the House of everything that was valuable. But what is surprising, they went off with Captain Solomon and there plunder leaving behind the Women and Children. This happened late in the evening the next day they were pursued but not come up with. Captain Robinson has got forty men enlisted for the war, but many of them are so naked for want of all kinds of Clothing that they cannot do Duty. They have not a blanket among them all. I know it is not in the power of Council to provide for them at present, but I hope they will as soon as possible. There is no appearance of

Cumberland Militia Coming to this County as yet, on my Coming to this County I sent off to hasten there March. I most sincerely wished for Assembly to have been with me in my disagreeable visit along the much distressed Frontiers. I have no Language to express their distress and therefore will not attempt it.

I have the Honour to be  
with the greatest esteem  
Your Excellency's Most  
Humble servant

JAS. POTTER.

Capt. Robinson's destitute company referred to in the above letter is the same company of which Moses Van Campen was a first lieutenant. This is the brief history of how Capt. Solomon was taken prisoner by the Indians on the 8th day of April, 1781, at the house of one Durmer on a quiet Sunday evening near Sunbury. He was taken to York State or Canada and was gone for two years. The history of his captivity and return would no doubt make an interesting chapter in the history of the Revolutionary War. It is hoped that such a history may yet be produced and published as a tribute of respect to the memory of this one of the heroes whose memories should never die out.

It is a relief to notice that the Legislature of the State of Pennsylvania did itself the honor to pass the following:

Whereas, It appears that Joseph Salmon, late a captain in Colonel James Munay's Regiment, of Northumberland County militia, while in the service of his country during the Revolutionary War, was taken prisoner by the Indians and detained in captivity upwards of two years, during which time his then infant family solely dependent on his labor for support, was left destitute, and himself treated with all the rigour incident to savage warfare, and it also appearing that he hath not received from his country any compensation for his services and sufferings.

Therefore, be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, that there is granted to the same Joseph Salmon a tract of donation land to contain three hundred acres, for which a patent shall be made to him, his heirs or assigns in the usual manner.

SIMON SNYDER,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.  
Approved the fourth day of March, one thousand eight hundred and seven.

THOMAS McKEAN.

The sturdy old captain was married to a Miss Ann Wheeler, after whose family name Fort Wheeler, a fort on the Fishing Creek, just above the town of Light Street, in





Columbia County, Pa., named Fort Wheeler, was built by Moses Van Campen, in the month of April, 1778. Near this place Captain Solomon lived and died on what is known as the William Warden farm, between the towns of Espy and Light Street, and he and his wife lie buried near the place. The Captain left nine children, Isaiah, John, George, William 1st, William 2d, Jane, Margarette, Sarah and Phebe. These sons and daughters are scattered far and wide.

Isaiah, one of the sons, married Sarah McMurtrie and settled in Briar Creek Township, near Berwick, and reared a family of thirteen children: James M., Isaiah Wheeler, Clark, William, Abram M., Joseph P., John S., George Ellis, Elizabeth Ann, Maria Charlotte, Phebe and Sarah Jane.

Isaiah Salmon was widely and favorably known as an intelligent and influential citizen, and died honored and lamented by the community in which he lived.

Two of his sons, James M., and Clark are ministers of the gospel and are known as men of eminence in their calling.

Joseph P. Salmon, a namesake of his illustrious grandfather, Captain Solomon, lives in Hazleton, Pa., where he is well and favorably known. He came to Hazleton in his boyhood, and since his advent here has earned and received the confidence of the community, and has filled many positions of trust and honor. C. F. H.

Hazleton, Pa., Feb. 3, 1887.

#### Pioneer Physicians of Wyoming.

The Luzerne County Medical Society held its annual meeting and banquet Jan. 5, at the Wyoming Valley Hotel. Dr. Howell, vice-president, presided at the meeting.

After the transaction of routine business, Dr. Fred. C. Johnson, of the Record, read a paper upon the Pioneers of Medicine in this Valley. It was a very interesting sketch, though the reader claimed that his paper was really but a bundle of fragments of biographical gleanings, he having had no time to compile the same into such sequential form as he might have done and would have done, had he been given mere time. The morsels of personal reminiscences in the lives of the early doctors were more than interesting. He touched upon none of the doctors later than 1825. Dr. Johnson gave Dr. Hollister, of Providence, credit for much of the material that he presented last evening, and paid that antiquarian and genial medical philosopher a warm tribute of praises and urged the purchase of his valuable collection of aboriginal and other curiosities as the nucleus of a museum: this as a recognition of Dr. Hollister's zeal in its collection and as a financial help to him now that he is

prevented from practicing his profession.—*Wilkes Barre Correspondent of Scranton Republican.*

#### FLOUR FOR 44 YEARS.

Price Per Hundred in Philadelphia from 1785 to 1828.

The following table of the price of flour per hundred in Philadelphia is the average for each year, and now taken from an old Salem paper in possession of Salem County Historical Society dated March, 18, 1839:

1785.....	\$ 5 87	1807.....	\$ 7 17
1786.....	5 65	1808.....	5 69
1787.....	5 25	1809.....	6 91
1788.....	4 81	1810.....	9 37
1789.....	5 20	1811.....	9 95
1790.....	5 56	1812.....	9 83
1791.....	5 22	1813.....	8 92
1792.....	5 25	1814.....	8 60
1793.....	5 90	1815.....	8 71
1794.....	6 90	1816.....	9 78
1795.....	10 60	1817.....	11 69
1796.....	12 50	1818.....	9 06
1797.....	8 91	1819.....	7 11
1798.....	8 20	1820.....	4 72
1799.....	9 68	1821.....	5 72
1800.....	9 88	1822.....	5 58
1801.....	10 40	1823.....	6 82
1802.....	6 90	1824.....	5 62
1803.....	6 73	1825.....	5 10
1804.....	8 22	1826.....	5 65
1805.....	9 70	1827.....	5 23
1806.....	7 30	1828.....	5 60

Aggregate average for forty-four years \$17.42. The circumstances which have produced the principal fluctuations are given as follows: From 1794 to 1796 scarcity in France and England; from 1798 to 1800, export to England; 1800 to 2801, scarcity in England; 1804-5 scarcity in Spain; 1808-9, long embargo; 1809-10-11, Peninsular war; 1812-13-14, war with England; 1816-17, scarcity in England. To this we might add the cause of an advance during the latter part of 1823, viz., scarcity in Europe, particularly in England. The state of the currency in 1814-15 had an effect on prices. The highest yearly average was that of 1796, viz., \$12.50, and the lowest price that of 1826, viz., \$4.65. The lowest price was in March, 1821, \$3.37. The highest price was in March, 1796, \$15.—*Salem South Jerseyman.*

#### Indian Relics.

James Crockett, of Ross Township, has sent the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society some valuable aboriginal specimens. They comprise a grooved axe, plowed up on the farm of Miner Goss, in Fairmount Township, white arrow and drill; grooved tomahawk, from Crockett farm; a stone gouge from George Hess' farm, Fishing Creek, and a lot of flint chips.





## THE MINISINK MA SACRE.

**A Honesdale Writer Gives Some Interesting Facts and Sets Historian Chapman Straight on One Point.**

[John Torrey in Honesdale Citizen, Feb. 10.]

The notice of the recent death of the widow of the late Judge Manning, of Bethany, brings to remembrance some interesting historic events resulting in the death of one of her ancestors, in his country's service. To many of your readers the full history of the affair is not easily accessible, and to such a brief statement of the facts will be interesting.

Mrs. Manning was a daughter of David Wilder and wife, and her mother was the daughter of Paul Tyler, and a granddaughter of Captain Bezaleel Tyler, who was one of the pioneer settlers of the valley of the Delaware at Cochection.

The early settlers then were much exposed to the attacks by the Northern Indians, and several times they were obliged to flee to neighboring settlements for safety.

On learning of the Wyoming massacre by the Indians in 1778 the settlers at Panpack, and most of those at Cochection, deemed it unsafe to remain at their homes and fled with their families to the settled parts of Orange County, New York, for safety.

While they were thus residing in Orange County as refugees, a band of Indians and Tories from the North, led by Col. Brandt, came into the Delaware Valley, and during the night of July 16, 1779, made an attack upon the settlement at the upper end of the Minisink flats, near Port Jervis, seized such property as they could take with them, destroyed such as they could not take and compelled the inhabitants to flee for their lives.

Information of the raid was immediately sent by a messenger to Goshen, and the militia of that region, together with such volunteers as could be obtained, were ordered by Col. Tusten to rendezvous at Minisink (now Port Jervis) early the following morning, July 21.

Capt. Bezaleel Tyler (grandfather of Mrs. Wilder) and Moses Thomas, Sen., (father of Judge Thomas) from Cochection, and Moses Kellam, Sen., from Panpack settlement, all of whom were there as refugees, volunteered to join them.

On the morning of July 21st, the officers under Col. Tusten, and as large a force as could be mustered under so short a notice, met him at the place appointed, and found that the enemy had left, going up the Delaware with their plunder. After discussing the situation it was decided to pursue them, and they took up the line of march and proceeded some 17 miles that day, and encamped.

In the morning, Col. Hathorn, of War-

wick, overtook them with a few more men, and being the senior officer, took the command.

They advanced to Half-Way-Brook, now Barryville, and found the Indians had there encamped the night before. Here, as Capt. Tyler was known to be familiar with the geography of the country over which they were now to proceed, he was selected to take command of a small scouting party, to go forward and reconnoitre the movements of the enemy, and suggest the most favorable ground for attacking them.

He and his party had proceeded but a short distance in advance, when he was singled out and killed, probably by some Tory who recognized him, and realized the danger to those who were fleeing, from having a man so familiar with the route, acting as guide to their pursuers.

About 9 o'clock they came in sight of the Indians, three-quarters of a mile distant, advancing leisurely up the river, and Col. Hathorn marched his men over the hill intending to reach the ford at the mouth of the Lackawaxen in advance of the Indians.

Col. Brandt discovered his movement and made a counter move so as to get in the rear of his pursuers, and chose his time and place for attacking them, and on the hill, about a mile east of the mouth of the Lackawaxen, he succeeded in so cutting off one-third of Col. Hathorn's forces that they could not again unite, and then on ground chosen by Brandt, a most desperate battle was fought, and Col. Hathorn's forces disastrously defeated, and more than forty of them killed and left on the battlefield.

Among those killed, was Moses Thomas, Sen., who had at Cochection, been a neighbor of Captain Tyler.

The bones of the men thus slain, were left to bleach in the forest, until 1822, when patriotic citizens of Orange county, united to collect them, and have them properly interred. And on the forty-third anniversary of the battle, July 22, 1822, the bones were so disposed of beneath an appropriate monument then erected in Goshen, in honor of those brave but unfortunate men.

This battle has been called the "Battle of Minisink, or 'Minisink Massacre,'" but the site where it took place, was nearly 20 miles distance from that part of the Delaware valley, which the Indians called Minisink.

But another more important and misleading error is the statement in Chapman's History of Wyoming, in incidentally alluding to this battle, that the men who were there killed by the Indians, were part of a company of Pennsylvania militia who had been sent to the Lackawaxen to protect the settlers.

At that date, July 22, 1779, all the organized militia of Northeastern Pennsylvania





have been supposed to be massed at Wyoming, preparatory to moving up the Susquehanna under Gen. Sullivan that week to attack the Six Nations of Indians in the Chemung country, and if so, there would have been no company of Penn'a militia to spare to be sent to the Lackawaxen if needed. But historians very generally agree in telling us that immediately after the Wyoming massacre in 1778, the settlers at Paupack on the Lackawaxen, and at Cochecton all fled for safety, so that there were few, if any, settlers there needing military protection.

The evidence is now incontrovertible that the patriotic men who were in that Minisink battle, were from Orange County, New York, including a few refugees from Pennsylvania. J. T.

#### FRIENDLY INDIANS AT WYOMING.

On Their Way to See Gen. Washington at Philadelphia—Their Dread of Small-Pox.

In 1777 the settlements in Westmoreland were infected with small-pox and the disease was actively combated by the settlers. Pest houses were established at points off from the traveled roads and all cases of the disease were compelled to be conveyed thither for treatment. The Indians had a most intense dread of the infection, for then as now, they were its easy victims. We have before us volume 1 of the new series of Pennsylvania Archives, edited by Hon. John Blair Linn and Dr. W. H. Egle. So far as we have seen there is no reference in the local histories to the presence of the Indians referred to in the appended letter from Col. Denison to the committee of Easton, to whose friendly attentions the Indians were introduced:

WESTMORELAND, Jan'y 9th, 1777.

GENTLEMEN: The Bearers hereof are Part of a Large Body of Indians belonging to the six Nations who have Expressed their friendship for the United States of America, at a Counsell held in this Place this day; they als Inform us they are upon a Journey to Philadelphia to speak with the Congress, (if returned,) Otherways intended to see General Washington. They have Desired us to write to you & beg that they may be Pointed to Places to Escape the Small Pox and other Pestilential Disorders, (if such there be among you.) This is wrote upon their Particular Desire, to give you Information of the approach of the Body of Indians, which Consists of about two Hundred Men, women & Children; and they further desired us to request of you your Influence, that their Proposed treaty might be at Eastown if it be possible at this time, for fear of the Dis-

orders, &c., Mentioned as above; we Doubt not but you will Pay due attention to these People at this time when their favours will be more Eligible than their Frowns.

We beg leave, Gent'n, to Subscribe

Ourselves your friends & very

Humble Servants,

NATHAN DENISON,

WILLIAM JUDD,

CHRIST. AVERY.

To EASTOWN COMMITTEE.

That the Indians were cordially received is shown by the following memorandum, headed

#### "THE EXPENCE OF THE INGENS."

To 1 Gall. of spirits.....	£2 4 0
To 1 Bottel.....	0 1 0
To 2 wine Decanters.....	0 12 6
To 18 Gall. of Sider, 2-8.....	2 8 0
To 11 Gall. of sider, J. C., 8-0.....	4 8 0
To 7 Boles Tody.....	1 1 0
To 4 Dobel Boles Do.....	1 4 0
To 15 Nithes and Days hay for one horse	2 5 0
11 Do.....	1 13 0
8 Do.....	1 4 0
7 Do.....	1 1 0
	£18 18
2 Nithe's hay.....	0 4 0
	£18 56

Rec'd Feb'y 18th, 1777. of Jas. Dean, the within Acc't in full, for Isaac Sidman.

HENRY FULLERT.

A recent Wyoming County paper thus states: "Miss Emily C. Blackman wishes us to state that the errata of her History of Susquehanna County are about to be published and furnished on application to all her subscribers, gratis, except when stamp for mailing is necessary. All who have detected mistakes will please give her notice at once, or refrain from criticism hereafter."

Lancaster County has organized a historical society and it has done so none too soon. It has been well nigh two hundred years since the first white settlements were made within the borders of what is now Lancaster County, and more than a century and a half since the erection of the county itself.

Following are the officers chosen for the permanent organization: President, Rev. J. H. Dubbs, D. D.; Vice-Presidents, Hon. J. P. Wickersham, Samuel Evans; Recording Secretary, A. F. Hostetter; Corresponding Secretary, W. W. Griest; Librarian, S. H. Zehm; Treasurer, S. P. Eaby; Executive Committee, F. R. Diffenderfer, J. B. Hipple, R. M. Reilly, C. T. Steigerwalt, C. H. Stubbs, H. A. Brickenstein, Rev. J. Max Hark, S. C. Slaymaker, P. C. Hiller, W. U. Hensel.





## WAR PRICES.

## Their Rise in the Confederate States—Curious Comparative Showing

W. H. Beard, of Orange Grove, Miss., sends to the Louisville, Ky., *Courier-Journal* a clipping from a Mobile paper, published near the close of the war, containing a comparative table of prices for the years 1862, '63, '64 and '65. As published below it is an interesting and instructive bit of financial history:

Articles.	CONFEDERATE MARKET REPORTS.			
	Jan., 1862.	Jan., 1863.	Jan., 1864.	Jan., 1865.
Flour, extra, bbl.	\$11 25	\$57 00	\$100 40	\$300 00
Flour, fine, bbl.	8 00	50 00	100 10	250 00
Cornmeal, bu.	1 00	3 00		7 00
Corn, sack, bu.	88	3 00	4 50	8 50
Coffee, Rio, lb.	60	3 25	11 50	50 00
Sugar, brown, lb.	7	35	3 00	12 00
Sugar, refined, lb.	23	1 00	4 00	
Butter, country, lb	50	1 00	3 00	8 00
Eggs, doz.	20	1 00	2 00	
Bacon, lb.	21	30	3 25	3 75
Lard, lb.	19	53	3 00	3 00
Fresh beef, lb.	8	15	85	1 25
Fresh pork, lb.	14	30	1 75	1 50
Coal, ton.	15 00		150 00	200 00
Candles, sperin, lb	75	2 00	12 00	
Salt, Liverpool, sack	10 00			38 00
Soap, hard, lb.	12	50	80	2 50
Tallow, lb.	18	80	1 50	5 00
Potatoes, sweet, bu	1 00	2 50	5 50	12 00
Potatoes Irish, bbl	10 00		60 00	80 00
Onions, bbl.	8 00			100 25
Chickens, doz.	3 50	7 00	25 00	75 00
Turkeys, doz.	10 00	30 00	75 00	100 44
Rice, lb.	7	12	22	2 00
Cow peas, bu.	1 00	2 75	6 00	14 00
Molasses, N. O., gal	50	2 50	14 00	20 00
Apples, dried, lb.	7	28	80	2 00
Peaches, dried, lb	17	38	90	3 00
Beeswax, lb.	30	90	1 75	5 00
Wheat, bu.	1 50		7 00	23 00
Wood, oak, cord.	3 50	15 00	20 00	70 00

## James Bird.

Some one out in Ohio appears to have been writing for a paper there relative to James Bird, the hero of Lake Erie, as we learn from the following letter in the *Norfolk Reflector*, from C. J. Baldwin, a former resident of Luzerne County:

MESSRS. EDITORS: Your correspondent, H. Buckingham, in his interesting letter concerning James Bird, is mistaken as to the authorship of the song. It was not written by Charles Dorrance, as he claims, but by Charles Miner. My information is positive and direct. I am a native of Luzerne County, Pa., where I resided up to within twenty years. Am familiar with the history

of that county and its people, past and present. Have met Mr. Miner, and two years ago was at his old home, now occupied by his son, Wm. Penn, who for many years published the *Wilkes-Barre Record of the Times*, to whose columns it has been my privilege in times past to contribute articles for publication.

Charles Miner published at Wilkes-Barre from 1801 to 1818, a paper called the *Gleaner* which, it is reputed, was ably edited. Was afterwards elected to Congress. Subsequently devoted his time mainly to literature. Was the author of a work entitled the *History of Wyoming*. Col. Charles Dorrance, to whom Mr. Buckingham refers, is yet living, has a princely income from coal lands, and his age is now 82 years. His military title comes from having been elected colonel of volunteer militia in 1835, at which time my father was elected major, whose commission was signed by Wolfe, then governor of Pa., which I have in my possession. Dorrance's grandfather, George Dorrance, was killed at the massacre of Wyoming, July 3d, 1778.

Pace and Bowman, two of Bird's companions in arms, who were with Perry on the flagship, *Niagara*, lived about five miles from where I resided and when a boy I heard Pace say that he was below in the vessel throwing up cannon ball, and just before the close of the action Perry said to him: "A few more balls, my brave fellow, and the day is ours." Pace said it was impossible to even imagine the electrifying effect that remark had upon him. He could then throw with greater ease two balls where he had thrown one before.

Stewart Pearce, in his "Annals of Luzerne County," says that "Bird was from Pittston, and was descended from a most respectable family. He was a man of great bodily strength and activity, and was full of patriotic devotion to the cause of his country, but unfortunately his proud spirit boldly rejected many of the restraints imposed by the stern rules of military discipline. He fought like a tiger, and when wounded refused to be carried below. News of the intended attack of the enemy on New Orleans had reached the fleet on Lake Erie, and Bird, ambitious to be in the midst of the smoke and fire of battle, one night when in command of the guard, marched away with several of his men to join Gen. Jackson. He was pursued and arrested at Pittsburg, from which place he was about to embark with a company of volunteers for the Crescent City. Being arraigned before and tried before a court-martial, he was sentenced, in accordance with the rules of war, to be shot. Had Commodore Perry received intelligence of the proceedings in time, Bird's life would have been spared."





# The Historical Record

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION

DEVOTED PRINCIPALLY TO

## The Early History of Wyoming Valley

AND CONTIGUOUS TERRITORY

WITH

## NOTES AND QUERIES

BIOGRAPHICAL, ANTIQUARIAN, GENEALOGICAL .



EDITED BY F. C. JOHNSON, M. D.

Vol. 1]

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MARCH 1887

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[No. 7.

WILKES-BARRE, PA.

Press of The Wilkes-Barre Record

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ISSUED EVERY FRIDAY.

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## *The Historical Record,*

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

Devoted principally to the early history of Wyoming Valley and contiguous territory, with Notes and Queries, Biographical, Antiquarian and Genealogical. The HISTORICAL RECORD was started September, 1886, and each number consists of from 12 to 24 large pages, with wide margin. Subscription, \$1.50 per year, payable in advance. Single Copies, 15 cents.



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*Address all communications to*

C. E. Snyder,  
F. C. Johnson,  
J. C. Powell.

THE RECORD.  
WILKES-BARRE, PENN'A





# The Historical Record

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MARCH, 1887.

No. 7.

## THE OLDEST PRINTER.

### A Visit to a Venerable Printer and Journalist.

Col. John F. Meginness, of the *Williamstown Gazette and Bulletin*, recently visited Major Wm. P. Elliott, at Lewistown, the oldest printer and editor in the United States, and thus tells of it:

At a stated hour last evening we called on Major Elliott, whom we found awaiting us in the drawing room of his comfortable residence. He partially arose and, leaning on his cane, warmly greeted us with a shake of the hands.

"I have been awaiting you for a quarter of an hour," he said, in a firm voice, and turning to the reverend gentleman continued: "I told you to bring your friend at 7:30 sharp; it is nearly a quarter past that time, but it's all right."

"I have long had a desire to meet you," I said, "as it is claimed by the press that you are the oldest printer and editor in the United States, and knew many of the leading men and politicians who flourished three quarters of a century ago."

His countenance brightened up at this remark and he replied:

"Yes; I believe I'm the oldest printer in this country. I was born here in Lewistown January 12, 1793, and have spent my entire life in and about this place."

"When did you commence learning the trade?"

"In 1807 I was apprenticed to Alexander & Phillips, publishers of the *Carlisle Herald*, to learn the trade of a printer. I was to serve four years."

"You served your apprenticeship?"

"Yes. In 1811, being a full fledged journeyman, I returned to my native town and started the *Juniata Gazette*, in connection with James Dixon. It is still published, but is now known as the *Lewistown Gazette*."

"You served as a soldier in the war of 1812?"

"I did. I was with a party on detached duty when the battle of the Thames was fought, and saw considerable service in that part of the country."

"That was the battle in which, it is said, Colonel Dick Johnson killed Tecumseh, the famous Indian chief."

"Yes, sir; I think there is no doubt that Johnson killed him in that battle."

"Did you ever meet Col. Johnson?"

"I have. He visited me here many years ago, and we had a pleasant time."

"Were you in the service when Perry gained his victory on Lake Erie?"

"I was near enough to hear the sound of his guns when he thrashed the British in that naval engagement."

"Did you return to the printing business after the close of the war?"

"In 1816 I sold out my interest in the *Gazette* to Mr. Dixon and engaged in other business, which I followed with varying success for many years. I was once engaged in the turpentine business, but when hard times came I was obliged to suspend. Finally, in 1834, I returned to the old *Gazette*, and after publishing it a short time, sold out to my son in 1835."

"You knew many of the distinguished men of the time?"

"Very well. I've met Henry Clay, and once I traveled with him down the river from here in a boat. I knew James Buchanan well, John W. Forney and many other prominent men long since dead."

"Did you know U. J. Jones, who wrote the story called 'Simon Girty,' and the history of the Juniata Valley, more than thirty years ago?"

"Very well; and I once met Simon Girty, too. I visited him in his cabin, near Malden, after the battle of the Thames."

"You are an older printer than Gen. Simon Cameron?"

"Yes, sir; I learned my trade several years before Cameron had learned to set type."

"You attended the unveiling of the monument to Gov. Snyder, at Selinsgrove, three years ago?"

"I did, and I believe Gen. Cameron and myself were the only two men present on that occasion who knew and were acquainted with Gov. Snyder. I have in my possession a commission signed by Gov. Snyder commissioning me a major of militia in 1817. I had a fine sword and uniform once, but an officer borrowed a portion of it on a certain occasion and failed to return it."

Oliver Hillard is achieving success in the effort to trace the genealogy of the Hillard family, and is in correspondence with members of different branches of the family in various States.





### The Hakes Genealogy.

When, last summer, by way of diversion, Dr. Hakes undertook to collate and formulate his genealogical record of the Hakes Family, he had no expectation that his labor would be extended beyond a few weeks, nor that the outcome would exceed what might be comprised in a dozen to twenty pages of manuscript. The volume he has just published contains, however, eighty-seven printed pages. The record covers seven generations, and the list of names reaches the very considerable number of 561. Its production has consumed six months of arduous work, and that it is complete so far as obtainable, and adds an original feature in arrangement which, while it does not disturb the ordinary method, suggests a change that is likely to make more easily traceable the line of descent in branches of a family, is due to Dr. Hakes' thorough way of working and his clear conception of what is most intelligible to the ordinary reader.

Solomon Hakes is shown to be the common ancestor. He had sons, George and Jonathan. Finding that the living descendants are the direct posterity, either of Jonathan or of the sons of his brother George—Richard, George S. and James—the contents of the book are arranged in four tables, the first tracing the descendants of Jonathan, the second those of Richard, the third those of George S., and the fourth those of James. Dr. Hakes is in the line of George S., through his son Lyman, whose children were Lyman, (who was a member of the Luzerne bar, his death occurring in 1873,) Minerva, (the mother of L. H. Bennett, Esq.,) Homer, Adaline, Harlo, Harry, (who was an M. D. from 1846 to 1877, and a member of the Luzerne bar since and at present,) Caroline and Vienna.

The Doctor makes this laconic observation for those who may inquire as to his reason for publishing the book: "To those who ponder as to a motive to make a record of this kind, (quite too long neglected) I trust the receipt of a copy, free of expense, postage paid, will be a consoling answer." There ought to be in every family one who would take the pains to preserve the family record that is so admirably taken in this instance. The book is very tastefully printed, and is from the office of Robert Baur & Son.

In connection we may add that Dr. Hakes made in his researches many new acquaintances, renewing old ones as well, and in order to create fraternal feeling and freshen family traditions, he purposes having a meeting of members of the family at the National Hotel, Niagara Falls, on the first Wednesday in August. He is making every effort to induce a large turnout, and we dare say he will secure it, and will have withal a royal good time.

### Early Lackawanna.

[Dr. Hollister in Scranton Truth.]

Fifty-four years were measured and reddened by wars and massacres at Wyoming after the Indian purchase, before stone coal through the genius of Judge Fell, of Wilkes-Barre, achieved its triumph over wood as a fuel in 1808. This fact imparted the first dim conception to the farmers of Lackawanna that the black stuff along the streams and new lands offending the eye and the plough, might be put to better use than impoverishing the soil otherwise productive. The population of the valley in 1808-12 was small and the inhabitants poor. Occupied with the plain duties of husbandry, put to their wits' end to provide for the pressing wants of large families, they gave no thought to the mineral resources of the country, of which they were totally ignorant until Judge Fell's success was diffused throughout the country. No one thought of digging coal, because it was worthless to all but the few blacksmiths occasionally at work with it near some cross roads. As the rivers and the various streams entering it from the mountains had laid coal bare in many places by the action of the water, the citizens of Pittston and Providence, began to estimate the probable worth of this new fuel. In the absence of authentic record, it is difficult if not impossible to put the credit of first burning stone coal in the valley where it really belongs. The pioneers from New England were not tempted here with the hope of finding anthracite. Here and there, generally by a spring, a log cabin emerged from the fresh burned clearing in which brave hearts and strong arms met the assaults of poverty with undaunted heroism.

Communication with the lower valley, carried on by the returning mill boy, who told what he had heard at the mill while waiting for his grist, slowly agitated the settlement with the success of Fell's burning coal in a grate. Preserved Taylor, a man of observation and judgment, who lived on the western border of Capouse Meadow, owned the Tripp farm whose margin was watered by a small rivulet. From a vein of coal brought to light by the receding water-fall, near the present Mount Pleasant Colliery, he gathered a few lumps for a fire in his kitchen in the autumn of 1810, two years later than its introduction in Wilkes-Barre.

Coal, like wood, everywhere abundant, cost nothing but the trouble of drawing it to the farmer's home on the bob sled in winter time. As it made a fire which would last all night and far into the next day without the trouble of kindling it each successive dawn with half frozen fingers and a wheezy bellows it soon advocated its way among the farmers along the river who were able to





employ a smith to make one of the primitive grates of the day.

#### WHAT THE COAL SULPHUR DID.

These grates had so little draught to them that most of the sulphur from the coal entered the room. Before the advent of coal fires everybody had the cutaneous eruption known as the seven-year itch. In families where coal was used it soon disappeared and the luxury of scratching entirely ceased with the introduction of coal fires. It may astonish many to learn the fact that because this new kind of sulphur cure offered a cheap, quick sovereign remedy for what was then prevalent throughout the country in spite of brimstone rolls and ointments assiduously employed, it more readily was adopted by the wood burners and choppers. No powder or pick was necessary to secure coal. A crowbar or hand spike and a peck basket constituted the entire mining machinery of the valley in 1810.

#### The Richest Dimple.

The richest dimple in the Appalachian chain of mountains is known as the Lackawanna coal field. No minor vale in any province, territory or State has so widely diffused its name throughout the hemispheres as has this, simply by the wonder of its development and the rigor of its coal literature. The anthracite field of Lackawanna, with that of Wyoming lying in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties, in Pennsylvania, within one hundred and fifty miles of the seaboard, embraces the territory above the Blue Mountains, known in coal nomenclature as the "Northern Coal District," was purchased of the Indians comprising the Six Nations at Fort Stanwix, in the Province of New York, July 11, 1754, by the Connecticut Susquehanna Company, before the wild men knew of the nature or existence of coal or the value of the wide tract they ceded to the whites for a trifle. It was not sought out by the emigrants from New England for its anthracite, because they too were without knowledge of its presence or value.

The consideration given the assembled chiefs was £2,000, New York currency, equal to \$10,000 in silver. This sum, unlike annuities promised the savages in the great West for their possessions to-day, was honestly paid them on the spot. Covered with forest whose depths were rarely trodden by warriors and never mapped by the canoe-lovers who claimed them from their fathers, the purchase was made by the whites for the reason that the mild character of the climate and the fertility of the soil, especially along the Susquehanna and Lackawanna lowlands, where fish and game were abundant, assured the husbandman of plenty from the very

start, without extraordinary labor or exertion.

A century retires before the coal revolution. Men will read these articles whose infant cries were lulled to sleep by a mother's song at eventide beside the wood fire aglow in the old fire place without measuring in their minds the transition from the wood to the coal period. So thoroughly and yet so quietly has this great, grand revolution been carried on in a spirit of rivalry, if not extravagance, that many in their haste for wealth, have forgotten the hanging of the crane over the hearthstones where they were born.—H. Hollister, M. D., in *Scranton Truth*.

#### Death of a Former Wilkes-Barrean.

HAY.—At his residence in Moulton Township, three miles west of Wapakoneta, O., on Feb. 12, 1887, of Bright's disease, Charles Hay, aged 69 years, 6 months and 27 days.

We copy the above death notice from the *Anglaize Republican* of 17th of February. The deceased was born in Wilkes-Barre Township, now Plains, July 15, 1817. He was a son of Henry Hay, blacksmith, whose shop and place of residence was the first house this side of the late Esquire James Stark's place on the main road leading to Pittston. He was married in 1849 to Ellen Jackson, of Wilkes-Barre, and removed to Anglaize County, Ohio, in the fall of 1855, where he has since lived. His wife died in July 1868, leaving a family of five girls and a son, all now living. For his second wife he married Martha Young, of Anglaize, in 1870, who died in 1879, leaving four children, all now living. In 1881 he married Miss Mary Larne, of Wilkes-Barre, who still survives him. Mr. Hay was a kind husband and an affectionate father. He has paid several visits to his native town since removing to the West, and was always welcomed kindly by the few of his former neighbors and friends of old Plains who knew him well as boy and man for so many years, and who still survive him; but the old stock of thirty-five years ago are becoming few and far between; a new people, with new pursuits and new objects in life have almost wholly supplanted the original tillers of the soil and driven them to seek new homes, many of them on the rich farm lands towards the region of the setting sun, while the subterranean toilers in the mines now here risk life and limb to gain a scanty subsistence in bringing to the surface our black diamonds of commerce.

A history of the Dean Family is now being published by Dean Dudley, Wakefield, Mass. The work is illustrated, has tabular pedigrees and sells for \$5—\$1 each for 5 parts. The author invites data from representatives of the Dudley family.





### THE LATE ABI SLOCUM BUTLER.

#### A Representative of Several Distinguished Pioneer Families of Wyoming Valley—Her Funeral.

The last tribute of respect was paid to the memory of the late Mrs. Abi S. Butler March 15, by a large concourse of sorrowing friends at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. Ruth B. Hillard. The services were conducted by the pastor of the First M. E. Church, to which deceased had belonged since childhood. He was assisted by Rev. Dr. Y. C. Smith, the oldest surviving pastor of the church, he having served from 1864 to 1886. The latter made a most touching address. A choir consisting of Miss Nellie Wells, Miss Edith Puckey, Frank Puckey and John C. Jeffries sang the hymns. There was a profusion of beautiful flowers. The honorary pall bearers were W. W. Loomis, F. V. Rockafellow, L. D. Shoemaker, N. Rutter, Josiah Lewis and Richard Sharpe, and the carriers were C. B. Price, Wm. Dickover, E. J. Sturdevant, Thomas Connor, Theron Barnes and G. W. Kirkendall. Among the relatives from out of town were Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Sayre Jr., Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Ayres, Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. Chahoon, Mrs. Nice, Mrs. John B. Love, Mrs. Mary Butler Reynolds, Pierce Butler and Mrs. Martha Butler. Other family representatives were George Slocum Bennett, Frank A. Phelps, W. L. Conyngham, Charles Parrish, Col. C. M. Conyngham, Judge Woodward, Mrs. Amanda Butler, C. E. Butler. Interment took place in Hollenback Cemetery.

Mrs. Butler's father, Joseph Slocum, was a prominent man in old Wilkes-Barre and took a leading part in local affairs. He married, in 1800, Sarah, daughter of Judge Jesse Fell, whose discovery that anthracite coal could be burned in an ordinary open grate was made in 1808, the first discovery that anthracite could be used for domestic purposes. There were seven children from this union. Hannah, born 1800, married Ziba Bennett and died in 1855. Ruth Tripp, born 1804, married Gen. Wm. S. Ross and died in 1882. Deborah, born 1806, married Anning Chahoon. Abi Slocum, born 1808, married Lord Butler and died in 1887. George, born 1812, married Mary Grandon. Jonathan, born 1815, married Elizabeth Cutler Le Clerc, and died in 1860. Harriet Elizabeth, born 1819, married Charles B. Drake and is the only one of the children living.

At the age of 24 Abi Slocum was married to Col. Lord Butler. She spent her entire life in Wilkes-Barre. Her daughter, Ruth

B., is the widow of W. S. Hillard. Mary B., is the wife of Eugene B. Ayres. Of four sons, Joseph, Zebulon, Ziba and Edmund G., the latter is the only one living. Mrs. Butler was a Methodist by training and by preference and her happiest hours were spent within the walls of the sanctuary. She was a woman whose heart beat quick to every call for help, and there will be many poor families who, in her death, lose a friend who was ever dispensing aid. Her charities were quiet, but wide reaching. She was the first president of the Board of Lady Managers of the Wilkes-Barre Hospital and member of the lady managers of the Home for the Friendless, taking an active interest in both. Mrs. Butler's demise was not unanticipated, as she had for some time been in an apparent decline, with, however, little or no suffering attending it.

Mrs. Butler's husband was a son of Gen. Lord Butler, and a grandson of Col. Zebulon Butler. The latter bore a distinguished part in the troublous times of early Wyoming, and was in command of the heroic band of settlers who fought the combined force of British, Indians and Tories in 1778. Zebulon Butler married for his first wife Anna Lord, and it was from this union that the elder Lord Butler was born at Lyme, Conn., in 1770. Lord Butler became prominent in Wyoming affairs, was advanced to the highest position in the local militia, was the first sheriff of Luzerne County, and afterwards held the positions of prothonotary, clerk of the courts, register and recorder, court then being held at his house, corner of River and Northampton Streets, where Judge Stanley Woodward now lives. In 1790 he was a member of the Supreme Executive Council of the State, in 1794 he was postmaster of Wilkes-Barre, in 1801 he was a State Assemblyman, and afterwards was county commissioner and county treasurer. Still later he was a town councilman of Wilkes-Barre Borough, its president, and from 1811 to 1814 was Burgess. He married Mary Pierce, granddaughter of Abel Pierce, one of the original settlers in Wyoming.

Their youngest son bore his father's name, Lord Butler, and he was born in 1806. He married in 1832 the subject of this sketch, who was two years his junior, but who survived her husband 25 years, he dying in 1861 at the brick building on Public Square now occupied by Brown's book store. This building was erected by his wife's father, Joseph Slocum, in 1807. It was the first brick house erected in Wilkes-Barre. Lord Butler, 2d, was a civil engineer by profession and was identified with several important constructions in this region. During the last 20 years of his life he was engaged in coal mining at Pitts-





ton, with his brother, Col. John L. Butler, and his brother-in-law, Judge Garrick Mallory. He was a leading man in the M. E. Church. His wife organized a Sunday school in Wilkes-Barre as early as 1829.

The subject of this sketch was a niece of the celebrated Frances Slocum, who was captured by the Indians in 1778 and carried from her Wilkes-Barre home into the wilderness by a roving band of Delawareans, she being at this time five years of age. The story of her captivity and her romantic finding nearly 60 years later, among a tribe of Western Indians, is familiar to every schoolchild. The niece, whose death has just occurred, was the possessor of a life-size portrait, in Indian garb, of the "Lost Sister," who could not be persuaded to return to her kindred, but preferred to die among the children of the forest, the only friends of whom she had any knowledge.

#### An Old Wyoming Poem.

So far as we know the following beautiful lines have never appeared in any newspaper. They are taken from a rare volume, in the possession of the Historical Society, entitled "The Harp of the Beech Woods," printed and published at Montrose in 1822 by Adam Waldie, the author being Juliana Frances Turner, who describes her volume as being made up solely from "the wild flowers of the forest." It is a collection of extremely meritorious verses and was presented to the society in 1858 by Edward S. Loop:

#### THE VALE OF WYOMING.

Adieu to thee, Wyoming, loveliest vale!  
To thy mountains, thy hills and thy groves,  
To the flowers which in clusters enamel thy  
dale,  
Where the birds tell the tale of their loves.  
Where the spirits of Albert and Gertrude are  
seen  
By Cynthia's pale shadowy light,  
While the dark Catalissi and Henry's mil' mien  
"Look like morning led on by the night."  
Where the genius of Campbell has loved to re-  
pose  
His might and his sweetness of verse,  
Where the bloom of the thistle its wild magic  
throws  
O'er the scene his bright numbers rehearse.  
Adieu ye sweet shades! from my mind whilst I  
live  
Your remembrance never will fade;  
Fond fancy to song of her tribute shall give  
To each hill and each beautiful glade.

Ex-Surgeon-General Hammond, the eminent New York physician, has issued another historical novel from the press of D. Appleton & Co., entitled "On the Susquehanna." The scene is laid at Harrisburg and people in Dauphin County claim to see through the thin disguises of many of the characters.

#### Drunkenness Now and Then.

The letters of "Steele Penne" in the *Media American* are always entertaining in their style and independent in their sentiments. Not the least so is a recent comparison of the liquor habit a century ago with the liquor habit to-day, which comparison redounds much to the discredit of our sober ancestors.

Steele Penne has taken the pains, he says—and we will accept his word for it—to look over some of the old records, and diligent search therein has persuaded him that we have progressed more rapidly in everything else than in drunkenness. Such a bold statement in defiance of the rhetoric and warnings of male and female lecturers on the spirituous degeneracy of the times, savors of a temerity that all will admire. We will append, for the justification of "Steele Penne," a few of the facts that he claims in support of his conclusion.

First, then, there are not as many public houses where liquor is sold under a license in this country as there were a century ago. In Delaware County, at that ancient day, there were six times as many liquor places, in proportion to the population, as at present. In Chester County, cited as the present paradise of liquor dealers, the ratio in one hundred years has fallen in a wonderful degree.

It is claimed, and with apparent foundation, by the unterrified "Steele Penne" that illicit liquor selling was carried on to a greater extent in the age of our great-grandfathers than in the present day. Drinking on Sunday is shown to have been a favorite and general custom at the public houses, a popular beverage being "Sampson," so-called doubtless from its strength. Drinking at funerals was a common custom much honored in the observance.

In order to inspire big bids at vendues, liquor was on draught, free to all, and as plentiful as water. In fact, liquor appears to have been a concomitant of every social, political or mixed gathering. Jurors, in capital cases on trial, were invigorated for their deliberations by the rum bottle, and bills for such refreshment for jurors, commissioners, assessors and justices were paid by the county. The custom of drinking on New Year's Day is so recently abandoned as to be readily recalled.

All in all, "Steele Penne" makes out a strong case for his conclusion that drinking and drunkenness are not at present so prevalent as in the days of our sober ancestors. That the liquor habit is still the worst social evil that the world is struggling with "Steele Penne" does not attempt to confute; if he were to make the attempt we are sure he would find it beyond his power.





#### The New State Librarian.

Our telegraphic columns announced several days ago the appointment of Dr. Wm. H. Egle, of Harrisburg, as State Librarian. Although there were other available men among the applicants, notably the venerable editor of the *York Dispatch*, Mr. Hiram Young, it is safe to say that the appointment of Dr. Egle could not have been improved upon. Dr. Egle is 56 years of age and has always lived in Harrisburg. In his boyhood days he learned the printer's trade and subsequently had charge of the State printing. He also engaged for a time in editorial work in Harrisburg. At the age of 24 he began the study of medicine, graduating from the University of Pennsylvania in 1859. He practiced his profession in Harrisburg until 1862, when after the second Bull Run he was telegraphed for by Adjutant General Russell, of Pennsylvania, to go to Washington to assist in the care of the wounded, which duty he performed. Soon after he was commissioned assistant surgeon of the 96th P. V., and in 1863 surgeon of the 47th P. V. militia. Afterwards President Lincoln appointed him surgeon of volunteers and he was ordered to Kentucky and elsewhere. During the Appomattox campaign he was chief executive medical officer of Birney's Division, 24th Army Corps, and later held the same position in the 25th Corps.

At the close of the war Dr. Egle again located in Harrisburg, but a taste for literary pursuits tempered, perhaps, with the absence of the excitement of field life, made private practice irksome and he did but little of it, engaging meanwhile in the drug trade, which he still follows as closely as his literary work will permit.

Upon the organization of the National Guard of Pennsylvania in 1870 he was appointed surgeon-in-chief of the Fifth Division, with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, and he is now the senior medical officer in the N. G. P.

He is a member of many historical and learned societies in America and England. He is the author of a "History of Pennsylvania," published in 1876 and was associated with Hon. John Blair Lien, in editing 12 volumes of the second series of "Pennsylvania Archives." Later productions of his pen are histories of Dauphin and Lebanon Counties and the initial volume of "Pennsylvania Genealogies," a superb volume of over 700 pages. Dr. Egle edits the department of *Notes and Queries* in the *Harrisburg Telegraph*, a historical feature which finds an imitator in the Historical Column of the weekly *RECORD*.

He will bring to his duties of State Librarian, a mind admirably adapted to the work in hand, an experience in the realm of State

history having no equal in the Commonwealth, and an enthusiasm born of love for books that will revolutionize the State Library. Gov. Beaver is entitled to the thanks of all good citizens for making the appointment.

#### Death of Silas Alexander.

[Daily Record, March 5.]

At 20 minutes to 7 last evening Silas Alexander, the serious accident to whom was reported in Thursday's *RECORD*, died at his residence over Bergold's meat market on East Market Street. Since his severe fall on Wednesday afternoon by which a leg was fractured and one hip dislocated he had been steadily sinking, and the effects of his injuries were further aggravated by the manifestations of kidney disease. Since Thursday afternoon he had been partially unconscious and could with difficulty be aroused from his comatose condition. He seemed to suffer considerably, but his last hours were more calm and he appeared comparatively free from pain.

Mr. Alexander was born in Dover, Sussex County, N. J., April 25, 1799, his parents being of English extraction. He was educated at the Newton Academy in New Jersey, and having completed his course there took charge of the institution for one term. His parents had died when he was quite young and he had been brought up by an uncle. In 1820 he left his native town and moved to Nanticoke where he continuously resided for over 50 years. At first he taught school in that town but after a few years opened a general store which was largely patronized by the boatmen who plied on the canal. He was married Oct. 19, 1821, to Elizabeth, daughter of Valentine Smith, of Newport township, by whom he had 13 children, seven of whom survive him. His wife died in September, 1871, and Nov. 26, 1873 he married his second wife, the widow of Samuel Puterbaugh, by whom he is survived though no children resulted from this union.

His surviving children are Cyrus, John J., Eugene, Adriaan, Phoebe, wife of William Leisenring, who reside in Nanticoke, Daran C., a prosperous merchant of Laporte Ind.; and Washington, who resides in Benton township.

Mr. Alexander moved to this city some eight or ten years ago but still carried on the store at Nanticoke until about two years ago when he sold out to his son Eugene who now carries on the business. The funeral will probably take place Tuesday afternoon with interment in Hanover Green cemetery. He leaves an estate valued at \$300,000.





### The Year Without a Summer.

The RECORD desires to elicit some details from its readers as to the famous "cold summer" of 1816. Some of our readers can recall that year from their own memories, while others have heard the story as it was told.

On the 18th of August, 1886, Mrs. A. drew Raub died in Luzerne Borough at the advanced age of 95 years. In the RECORD's biographical sketch of this venerable mother appeared the following reference to the famous "cold summer:"

"Her husband, who came from New Jersey to visit friends in Wyoming Valley was wont to tell his children ever afterwards about that visit, for it was during the cold summer of 1816—a year when every month had its frost. He used to say that in June there was a snow storm which bore heavily upon the wheat, then in bloom; that many of the farmers took clotheslines and scraped the snow from the bending grain; that those who did this lost their crops, while the ones who trusted to nature had no harm come to their grain; and that when the harvest finally came the farm hands went to the fields wearing their great coats."

The following reminiscence of that remarkable year is credited to Mr. Abram Runyon, the venerable father of Chancellor Runyon, which he recently wrote to a friend at Plainfield, N. J.:

"In the year 1816 there was a sharp frost in every month. It was known as the 'year without a summer.' The farmers used to refer to it as 'eighteen hundred and starve to death.' In May ice formed half an inch thick, buds and flowers were frozen and corn killed. Frost, and ice and snow were common in June; almost every green thing was killed, and the fruit was nearly all destroyed. Snow fell to the depth of three inches in New York and Massachusetts, and ten inches in Maine. July was accompanied with frost and ice. On the 5th ice was formed of the thickness of window glass in New York, New England and Pennsylvania. In August ice formed half an inch thick. A cold Northern wind prevailed nearly all summer. Corn was so frozen that a great deal of it was cut down and dried for fodder. Very little ripened in New England, and scarcely any in the Middle States, and farmers were obliged to pay \$4 and \$5 a bushel for corn of 1815, for seed for the next spring's planting."

### The Cold Summer of 1816.

EDITOR RECORD: You ask for reminiscences of the "cold summer" of 1816. That year was a sorry time for farmers and all others that tried to raise crops of any kind, as well as for consumers who were obliged

to purchase provisions or any of the necessities of life. Wages of the laboring classes were not high in proportion to the cost of living. It was a hard time for the poor. For two months of that summer there were three black spots on the sun, plainly visible to the naked eye; the weather most of the time was so cool that woolen apparel was absolutely necessary for comfort. There were severe frosts several nights during each summer month, and the small amount of corn that got through to the month of September, and was then in the milk state, was entirely frozen and killed, and the ears of corn in the husks became rotten. The stench was so offensive that people would avoid passing a cornfield when the wind was toward them. Cattle would not eat the stalks until the rotten ears were taken off. It was said, and probably truthfully, that not a bushel of sound corn was raised in Luzerne County that season. Nor were there any fruit or garden vegetables raised that frost could kill. But during these privations of the people, they had one comfort, there was the greatest run of shad up the Susquehanna River that Spring that was ever before or since known. The shad fishery was on the west side of the river, opposite the mouth of Mill Creek. The shad seine of the fishery was owned by a company of men from both sides of the river; my father owned a share and I, although a boy of only 13 years, was boss of the Brail Canoe; there were in the upper end of the fishery, about ten rods from the west shore, two large stones or rocks, over which the sinker line had to be raised by lifting the Brail of the sinker line and keeping it up till the rocks were passed. This was my part of the duties of the fishery. Some days not a shad could be caught, some other days a few, or perhaps a few hundred would be taken, but on one day three thousand shad were hauled in at that fishery. I will not attempt to describe the fun and frolic of throwing the shad out of the water on to the beach when they were hauled near the shore in the shallow water by the seine. It was rare sport. DILTON YARINGTON.

Carbondale, March 15, 1887.

The *Scranton Truth* has begun the publication of a series of sketches of Early Days in the Lackawanna Valley, written especially for that paper by the historian and antiquarian, Dr. H. Hollister, who is well and favorably known by RECORD readers.

The Carbondale *Leader* says that "the Wilkes-Barre RECORD is the historical paper of this region and that it is doing good work in rescuing from oblivion many of the incidents of local history connected with the Lackawanna and Wyoming Valleys."





## WYOMING VALLEY POETRY.

## Critical and Historical Survey — Early Writers and Published Books of Verse.

## PART FIRST.

To give a critical and historical analysis of the poetry of the Wyoming Valley, necessitates the exploring of a hitherto unwritten department of local literature. Mr. John S. McGroarty, in his *Poets and Poetry of Wyoming Valley*, gives selections from the better known versifiers, but no critical or historical reminiscences. For this brief survey I have taken possession of many widely scattered facts and have endeavored to mould them into a history of Wyoming Valley poetry; and, while I have admired the songs of our native writers and made the touch of the critical finger somewhat gentle, I have sought to point out the powers and limitations of the singers and emphasize their imperfections.

More than a hundred years have passed since the first local writers began to drink inspiration from the beauties of this historic valley and to pour forth their intoxication with sparkling emulations of poetic fancy. It was in 1785 that Uriah Terry wrote his "Wyoming Massacre;" in 1810 that Charles F. Wells wrote the "Warriors of Wyoming," and in 1812 that James Sinton wrote the "Poor Man and the Doctor." Edward Chapman, Charles Miner, and Josiah Wright helped to swell the flood of local verse during the opening years of the present century, but their rhymes contain little merit and can scarcely be called poetry. The published verses of Amos Sisty, Andrew Beaumont, A. T. Lee, Sarah Miner and Charles Mowery evince a degree of poetic talent, though unequal and faulty in finish.

The *Literary Visitor*, established at Wilkes-Barre in 1813, served as a medium of communication for the early writers of this section. It was royal octavo size, a weekly journal, and published by Steuben Butler. The *Visitor* was primarily a literary periodical, and the editor, in the salutatory of the initial number, assures his readers that the paper will be devoted to every department of knowledge "which can be considered useful, interesting, or amusing to all classes of readers—biographical sketches of the most important personages of America and Europe—anecdotes of wit and humor—important facts in the history of nature—remarkable events in the history of nations—the finest flights of the muse—the selected beauties of ancient and modern eloquence—such essays as will instruct correctly in morality and duty, in education, science and the arts; and these selected from the best writers, will appear in a dress calculated to form a correct taste in

English composition." He also informs his readers that "the great part of the paper, instead of being occupied with advertisements which are useful only to a few men of business, will be filled with such a diversity of matter, that it can hardly fail of obtaining a welcome reception from every reader." This promise was well kept. It contained no advertisements during the two years that it existed, and was the principal market for the wares of the early Wyoming Valley writers.

*The Frontier Maid, or a Tale of Wyoming*, was the first poetical volume published here. It was a metrical romance of two hundred pages written by Joseph McCoy and published at Wilkes-Barre in 1819 by Samuel Maffet & Steuben Butler. It is a narrative of the massacre of Wyoming, has ten or a dozen prominent characters, is divided into five cantos, and has an appendix of nineteen pages of notes explaining the geographical and historical allusions of the poem. Mature years painfully revealed to the author the defects of the poem and he subsequently collected and burned all the copies he could get. Although characterized for its inequalities and absurdities, *The Frontier Maid* is not wholly without merit. Here and there a line can be found having the genuine poetic ring. Mr. McCoy was, of course, too deficient in constructive art to elaborate a well sustained narrative; but had he been less ambitious and given more finish to what he undertook, he might have written clever verses.

*The Harp of the Beech Woods*, by Juliana Frances Turner, was published at Montrose in 1822 by Adam Waldie. The selections are chiefly lyrical, of which "My Home in the Beech Woods" is perhaps the best. "Evening," a dainty pastoral, is a poem of remarkable purity and simplicity; and "The Humming Bird" and "Happiness at Home" are delicate and picturesque descriptive lyrics. The volume contains a dozen sonnets which detract from the merit of the book, since the author evidently knew little or nothing of the mechanical construction of the sonnet. The sonnet "To a Mother" is rich in sentiment; and in the one on "My Rhymes" she displays a genuine sense of refined humor.

The Wyoming Monument, "A Poem by the Lu-Natic Bard of Wyoming," was published at Wilkes-Barre in 1841 by Anthony P. Brower, the author, and dedicated to the Ladies' Monumental Association of Wilkes-Barre. It is an attempt at lyric poetry, but has no merit, whatever, and teems with the eccentricities which characterized its author. About the only redeeming feature of the book is the twelve page appendix of explanatory notes. A receipt for the price of the book, in the bard's own handwriting, was





attached to the first page of each copy sold.

Richard Drinker and Edward E. Le Clerc were both writers of meritorious verse. Mr. Drinker's "Address to a Land Tortoise," published in *Chandler's Magazine* of Philadelphia, in 1819, shows him to have been possessed of a rich sense of humor combined with all the fervor of a true poet. "Christmas," after the style of Burns, is humorous, witty and genial. His poems are wanting in deep pathos and originality of thought, but are distinguished for their vigorous common sense and unique execution. Edward E. LeClerc, another writer of clever verse, possessed the divine gift of so good to a remarkable degree. His best poem, "The Massacre of Wyoming," was read at the commencement exercises of Dickinson College in July, 1839, and subsequently published in *Godey's Lady Book*. This, and the poem on the death of his friend, Lieut. James Monroe Bowman, represents him at his best, although in all his writings he displays an exquisite sense of rhythm and a remarkable instinct in the choice of words. —*Wm. S. Monroe in Scranton Saturday Argus.*

#### History and Science in Scranton.

The Lackawanna Institute of History and Science has completed the first year of its existence. Its library comprises 365 bound volumes, 175 pamphlets and 3 maps and manuscripts. The museum has 371 catalogued specimens. In his annual report Curator C. L. Wheeler has the following:

I have prepared a catalogue of the coal flora fossils of this valley and find that forty-eight genera and three hundred and forty-eight species have been found and described. After consultation with Mr. R. D. Lacro, and by his advice I have divided the valley into six districts, to be called respectively the Carbondale, Olyphant, Scranton, Pittston, Wilkes Barre and Plymouth districts. In the two or three lower veins worked at Carbondale Mr. Clarkson found twenty-six species. Olyphant, which shows the work of two or three good collections, has afforded a hundred and one species. A result of very little collecting gives Plymouth twenty-eight. Wilkes Barre has yielded one hundred and seven. Pittston, through the earnest work of so able a palæo-botanist as Mr. R. D. Lacro, comes to the front with two hundred and forty-five species. Scranton, with her five or six veins of coal covering everything from the inter conglomerate up through the coal measure with her broad valley and the great quantities of slate exposed, has afforded only thirty-nine species to the scientific world. Surely, here is a virgin field for our infant Institute to cultivate.

#### West Branch Local History.

We are pleased to announce a new publication devoted to the history of the West Branch Valley of the Susquehanna, the Juniata region, and the Northwestern counties of our State. It will be published by Mr. John F. Meginness, of Williamsport, who for many years has edited the leading daily paper of that city, and who some 30 years ago wrote a charming history of the West Branch region, under the title of "Otzinachson." We append the prospectus which Mr. Meginness is sending out, knowing that it will interest many readers on the North Branch, both regions having much in common, pertaining to their early history.

*The Historical Journal:* A monthly magazine for preserving fragments of local history in Northwestern Pennsylvania.—I have often been solicited to start a monthly Historical Magazine, for the purpose of collecting and preserving scraps of Local History which will soon be lost forever. Yielding to these solicitations, I now propose to start such a publication, and will issue the first number about the first of May. It will contain thirty two octavo pages, in magazine form, and be neatly printed on fine paper.

The opening feature of each number will be a Biographical Sketch of some prominent deceased person—with portrait—or some old person living. Special attention will be given to the collection of Historical Incidents of Early Times, Reminiscences of Pioneers, Indian Antiquities, Necrology, Longevity, Statistics, Manufactures, and curious things.

Since publishing the History of the West Branch Valley, more than thirty years ago, and especially during my editorial service on the *Gazette and Bulletin* for eighteen years, I have gathered a large amount of material that would be valuable if put in a magazine for preservation. This publication will not interfere with the proposed revised History of the West Branch Valley, as the bulk of the matter it will contain cannot be used in that book, only in the briefest form, and in the majority of cases not at all.

An opportunity is now afforded those who are interested in the preservation of bits of Local History to aid in the enterprise. The *Historical Journal* will be printed with a view to binding, and twelve numbers will make a handsome volume of 384 pages. The subscription price will be \$2 per annum, of twelve numbers, payable in advance.

A biographical sketch of Rev. John Bryson, with portrait, who was pastor of Warrior Run Presbyterian Church, Northumberland County, for over half a century, will be the opening article in the first number.





## TWO UNPUBLISHED LETTERS.

**How Fort Allen, Now Allentown, was Provisioned 131 Years Ago—How Easton Looked to the Pioneers of 1752.**

The following unpublished letter, bearing upon the early history of Northeastern Pennsylvania, are kindly sent the record by Charles F. Hill, of Hazleton, whose contributions are always welcome:

**EDITOR RECORD:** I herewith communicate a letter, which I believe has never appeared in print. It is from Jacob Levan, Esq., of Maxatawny, Berks County, Pa., to Major William Parsons at Easton, Pa. Jacob Levan, Esq., was a justice of the peace, a judge and father of Jacob and Col. Sebastian Levan, of the Revolutionary army, and also a member of the Supreme Executive Council. Major Parsons was surveyor general of the province, and resigned on account of ill health in June, 1748, was appointed a justice of the peace, removed to Easton in 1752, and as major had the military charge of that section. In connection with the letter of Jacob Levan, Esq., we will also give a letter from Major Parsons to Richard Peters, Esq., giving a description of Easton as it appeared Dec. 8, 1752:

MAXATAWNEY, November 8, 1756.

MY KIND SERVICE AND GREETING

TO YOU SIR AND MAJOR WILLIAM PARSONS:

I am constrained to write you a few lines in as much as I have provisioned Fort Allen since spring and have had much labor and trouble by day and night; and have furnished everything, in quantities, that they needed, so that Captain Reinolds was well satisfied with me. And now since I have gone to heavy costs, and have bought wheat and fat cattle to provision the Fort again, Adam Deschler and Paul Balliet have assumed to provision the Fort, and have told me I should furnish no more provision; that they had made a written agreement with the Commissary, and offered to furnish provision for 6 pence less per man per week than formerly, which I am also willing to do as well as another. Sir William Parsons as Major has already once, on my account, given himself the trouble to write to the Commissary that I should provision the Fort, hence I ask him yet once more, since I cannot go there myself, as for several weeks I have been confined to my bed, else I would appear in person before him, and— and speak face to face to him.

I remain his most obedient friend and wellwisher.

JACOB LEVAN.

EASTON, December 8th, 1752.

**RICH. PETERS, Esq., Sir:** Upon removing my family to this Place my Thoughts have been more engaged in considering the circumstances of this Infant Town than ever,

as well with regard to its neighborhood, as the Probability there is of its being furnished with Provisions from the Inhabitants near about it, and if there already is, or probably may in time be, a sufficient number of settlers to carry on any considerable Trade with the Town. For without these it is not likely that it will be improved to any great height, as well with Regard to the Town itself, that is to say its Situation, as to Health, Trade and Pleasantness. Easton is situate in the Fork of the River Delaware, exactly in that Part of the Fork where the two main Branches meet, and is bounded on the South by the West Branch, and on the East with the main Branch of the River which runs in this Place, nearly North and South, about 120 Perches to the very pleasant brook of water, called Tattamy's Creek, which bounds the town to the north. On the west it is bounded by a pretty high hill that runs nearly parallel to and at the distance of 130 perches from the main branch. The site of the town is pleasant and very agreeable; the banks of all the waters bounding it are high and clean, and if it was as large again as it is, being now about 100 acres, it might be said to be a very beautiful place for a town. It is true that it is surrounded on every side by very high hills, which make it appear under some disadvantages at a distance, and might give some occasion for suspicion of its not being very healthy. But during all the last summer, which was very dry, and the fall, which has been remarkably wet, I don't know that any one has been visited with the fever or any other sickness, notwithstanding most of the people have been much exposed to the night air and wet weather. From whence I make no difficulty to conclude the place is and will continue very healthy. As to the external advantages or disadvantages of the town, I am not yet sufficiently acquainted with the country to enumerate them all. The most conspicuous are the adjacent rivers. The main branch in some seasons of the year is navigable for small craft, from near 100 miles above the town to Philadelphia, and if it were cleared in some places of the rocks which impede the navigation in the summer season, above as well as below the town, (and I have been told that it is practicable in some good measure to clear them,) the advantage that would accrue from the trade to and from Philadelphia, must be very considerable, as water carriage is much cheaper, and, in respect to several kinds of merchandise goods, much safer than land carriage. And in regard to the trade up the river, that would likewise be very advantageous to the town, as well as to the country in general, even in the single article of lumber, as there is great





plenty of almost all kinds of timber over the mountains, where there is also many good conveniences for erecting saw mills, and several are built there already. From whence the town might readily be supplied with boards, scantling &c. The West Branch will also be of advantage to the town, as it is navigable several miles for small craft. And Tattam's Creek being a good stream of water to erect mills upon, will also contribute towards the advancement of the place. The Jersey side being at present more settled near the river, opposite to the forks, than the Pennsylvania side, and indeed the land on that side is better watered and more convenient for settlements, than it is on this side for several miles about Easton. We have been supplied as much or more from that side, as from our own. But how Mr. John Cox's project of laying out a town upon his land adjoining Mr. Martin's land, is hard to say, and time only can obviate. But notwithstanding the advantages already mentioned, and perhaps many have escaped my notice, it must be confessed that the town labours under several considerable disadvantages. The first that offers, I mention with submission, is the great tract of land called the dry land, to the westward of the town. This with another tract adjoining the town to the Northward, being all together about 20,000 acres, is almost the only part of the country that, by its nearness to the town, were it settled and improved, could conveniently and readily afford a constant supply of provisions of all kinds, especially the smaller kinds which would not be so convenient for persons who live more remote to furnish. To the westward and northward of the dry land are the Moravian settlements, about eleven miles from the town. These settlements are not only of no advantage, but rather a great disadvantage to the town. For being an entire and separate interest by themselves, corresponding with only one another where they can possibly avoid it, except where the advantage is evidently in their favour, it can't be expected that the town should reap any benefit from them. Besides, as they have not hitherto raised, and as their number is continually increasing by the yearly addition of foreigners, it is not likely that they will, in time to come, raise sufficient provision for themselves, but are obliged to purchase great quantities from their neighbours, who would otherwise bring it to the town, but this is not to be expected while they can dispose of what they have to sell so much nearer home. And this leads me to wish, for the good of Easton, if the honorable the proprietaries should incline to have the dry lands improved, that it may not be disposed of to the Moravians. Not be-

cause they are Moravians but because their interest interferes so much with the interest of the town. If the dry lands should be settled chiefly by them, the master brethren would have the whole direction and disposal of all that should be raised there. Which would be more discouraging and worse to the town, than if that land were not inhabited at all. For so long as it remains uncultivated, it will serve for range to the town cattle. Between the town and the mountains, which is about 16 miles, is mostly poor land, and but thin settled. The other side of the mountain consists chiefly of new settlements, except the Minisinks and some other plantations near the river. But very probably in the time they will contribute to the advancement and Trade of the Town. On the South Side of the West Branch, the Country is the most and best settled, except near the Town, where the Land is very hilly and stony. Upon the whole, the Town has hitherto been very well supplied with Meal, Pork, Mutton, Butter, Turneps, &c. But how it will be supplied with Hay and Pasturage, I can't yet yet clearly foresee. I mean if the Town increases, as I am in great hopes it will. For this winter, I think we are pretty well provided. However, this leads me to mention Out Lots, which will be more particularly wanted here than at any of the other new County Towns, as they are all of them much better accommodated with Meadow Ground, near about them, than this Town is. If I might presume to speak my Opinion, and I know you expect I should, if I speak at all, I could wish that a sufficient Quantity of the dry Lands might be appropriated for Out Lots, and that all the Rest were to be settled and improved, and that, by Dutch People; altho' they were of the poorest sort of them. I don't mention Dutch People from any particular regard that I have for them more than any other People. But because they are generally more laborious and conformable to their circumstances, than some others amongst us are. I need not say who they are, but it is an old observation, that poor Gentle Folks don't always prove the fittest to begin new Places, where Labour is chiefly wanted.

I can't hear of any considerable Body of Clay for making Bricks or Potters Work, upon any of the Proprietary's land near the Town, but upon the 500 Acre Tract which was surveyed for Mr. Thomas Craig, near the Town, I am told there is very good Clay, both for a Potter and Brickmaker. The 500 acres belongs now to one Correy, in Chester County, I wrote to you about it very largely in a former Letter. There is now eleven Families in Easton, who all propose to stay there this Winter. And when our Prison is finished, which there is Hopes it soon will be,





as it is now covered in, there is great Probability that the number will encrease before the Spring. I am, Sir, Your obedient, humble Servant,

WM. PARSONS.

Indorsed—"Copy Wm. Parson's letter to R. P. about Easton of the 8 peer, 1852. Original sent to Propr. Cann Browne, in Lre, of mine, the 15th Decr, 1752."

#### An Old-Time Masonic Record.

[Montrose Republican.]

In a record which has been preserved of the old Rising Sun Lodge, No. 149, the first Masonic Lodge ever known in Montrose, instituted about 1816, is to be found the proceeding of a regular stated meeting, held in the old court house, May 30, 1825, at which the following were the officers and brethren present. Of all these *not one is now living*, excepting the one who was made a member at that meeting, it being some three weeks after he became of age; and he happens to be the last one who was initiated in that lodge previous to its being disbanded; though his name may be found as Junior Warden among the charter members of Warren Lodge, No. 240, instituted in 1849, and now existing here.

Among these departed brethren may be seen the names of the old centenarian, Luther Catlin, who died some two years ago, at the age of a little over a hundred years, and of Dr. Horace Smith, the last survivor of them, who left us last June, aged 87.

Officers of the "Rising Sun Lodge," No. 149.—Perez Perkins, W. master; Dr. Samuel A. Bissell, S. warden; Wm. C. Turrell, J. warden; Horace Smith, treasurer; Hiram Finch, secretary; Harry Clark, S. D.; Hiram Plum, J. D.; Jabez A. Burchard, tyler.

Members present—James Lathrop, Ira Gage, David O. Turrell, David Bissell, Erastus Catlin, Luther Catlin, Asa Olmstead, Daniel Curtis, Dr. Mason Denison, George Claggett, Henry Parke.

Accepted and initiated—James W. Chapman.

Visitors—Charles R. Marsh, Jesse Bagley, Peter Osborn, Isaiah Main, James Stephens, Benoni Austin, John Passmore.

Many of the readers of the *Republican* will recognize in the *now* sole survivor of the above, the old surveyor, the editor of forty or fifty years ago, more recently known as County Judge; and they may perhaps be interested to know that he is yet quite vigorous and active, though now in his 83d year, walks *plum*, performs on the *level* and *square* with his *compass*, and can follow ancient *land-marks*, or solve a mathematical problem as well as ever; and withal is vivacious enough to appreciate a good joke or tell a good story, if required.

#### Wyoming Pioneers in Binghamton.

In a rare volume, "Annals of Binghamton," published at that place in 1840, by J. B. Wilkinson, (a copy of which is in the possession of W. A. Wilcox, Esq., Wyoming) are numerous references to Wyoming and its people. Condensed, they are as follows:

First white settler, Capt. Joseph Leonard, moved from Wyoming 1787. Left on account of land disputes. Was a farmer at Wyoming, at time of massacre.

Reference to one Cole, early settler near Binghamton. Very inhuman—said to have had part in leading the Indians against Wyoming and Minisink.

Tom Hill, a pauper, also engaged in massacre. Said to have married Queen Esther. Flour brought up in canoes from Wyoming.

In 1780 Jonathan Fitch, of Wyoming, merchant and sheriff there, settled near Binghamton. Was first representative from Tioga in Legislature.

Capt. Brink came from Wyoming. Lost all by the great ice freshet. Was one of Plunkett's men.

Moses Chambers settled 1790. Came from Wyoming, was a sufferer by ice freshet. His father moved from Wyoming to Binghamton with his three sons.

Narrative of Mrs. Elisha Matthewson, a prisoner at Wyoming, and her escape.

Settlers between Wellsburgh and Elmira: Libbens Tobbs, Rufus Baldwin, Wm. Jenkins, Libbens Hammond, of Wyoming. Hammond's narrative.

Below Wellsburgh, Eldor John Goff, the first minister of that region—a Baptist. Came from Wyoming and settled on Chemung Flats in 1786.

First settler at Elmira, Col. John Handy. Was from Wyoming.

Judge Gore and Gen. Spalding rented the lands lying between the Pennsylvania line on the south, the pre-emption line on the west, the two lakes on the north, and the Chemung narrows on the east, for 99 years.

Philip Wells came from Wyoming. Also Henry Richards.

#### Probably Our Oldest Subscriber.

LOCK HAVEN, PA., March 18, 1887.—EDITOR RECORD OF THE TIMES: Please find enclosed one dollar, payment for the WEEKLY RECORD for another year's subscription, for I can't do without it. This being the fiftieth year of my subscription. I hope to make it a half century.

D. B. POLAND.

[Mr. Poland is a manufacturer and wholesale dealer in foreign fruits, nuts, etc. If there is any one on our list who took the RECORD as long ago as 1837 we shall be glad to mention the fact in these columns. Ed.]





## MR YARINGTON'S LIST.

Some of the Descendants of the Wilkes-Barre Business Men of 1818—Some Interesting Facts.

[In the last issue of the *Historical Record* appeared an article by Dilton Yarrington, of Carbondale, giving a list of about 250 citizens of Wilkes-Barre in 1818, together with their occupations. The list, which was prepared in 1868 from memory, was reprinted from the *WEEKLY RECORD* of that year. The appended communication has reference to the living descendants of the people included by Mr. Yarrington in his list.—Ed.]

EDITOR RECORD: I have read with considerable interest your list of names of the business men of Wilkes-Barre in 1818, as given by Esquire Yarrington, and as a sort of continuation of the same subject, herewith send you the names of a few of the descendants, (all living unless otherwise specified) together with some facts in regard to their subsequent history as I remember them:

Philip Abbott was the father of Philip Abbott, now of St. Paul, Minn.

H. C. Anbiser, father of Joseph Anbiser and Mrs. F. Koerner.

Ziba Bennett, father of George S. Bennett and Mrs. J. C. Phelps.

John L. Butler, father of Mrs. Judge Woodward and Frank Butler.

Steuben Butler, father of C. E. Butler, Mrs. Alex. Shiras and the late Wm. H. Butler.

Pierce Butler, father of Pierce Butler, of Carbondale, and Mrs. Mary Reynolds, of Kingston.

Zebulon Butler, father of sons and daughters, none living here.

Jonathan Bulkeley, father of C. L. Bulkeley and Mrs. A. R. Brundage.

Anthony Brower, father of Mrs. Alderman W. S. Parsons.

Isaac Bowman, father of Col. Sam and Miss Mary Bowman.

Andrew Beaumont, father of Col. E. B. Beaumont, U. S. A., and Mrs. Julia Gloninger, of Lebanon.

Job Barton, father of C. P. Barton, Lebanon.

Oristus Collins, father of Rev. Charles Jewett Collins.

George Chahoon, father of Miss Ann Chahoon and Mrs. Josiah Lewis.

Anning O. Chahoon, father of Joseph Slocum Chahoon.

Daniel Collings, father of Mrs. Julia Dougherty, Mrs. J. N. Davidson and Miss Eliza Collings.

Henry Colt, father of Henry Colt, Allentown.

Isaac A. Chapman, father of C. I. A. Chapman, Pittston.

Jacob Cist, father of Mrs. H. Wright and Mrs. A. T. McClintock.

Francis Dana, father of Mrs. J. R. Coolbaugh and Mrs. Wm. T. Rhoads.

Bateman Downing, father of Reuben Downing.

J. J. Dennis, father of Capt. J. P. Dennis.

John Davis, father of John and the late Mary Ann Davis.

James Ely, father of Thomas Ely, Kingston.

George Haines, father of Mrs. V. L. Maxwell.

James Hancock, father of Maj. E. A., of Philadelphia, and D. P. Hancock, of Peoria, Ills.

George Hotchkiss, father of Mrs. T. W. Robinson.

Dr. L. W. Jones, father of Mrs. Thomas Wilson.

J. P. Johnson, father of William P. Johnson, of Dallas, and Wesley Johnson, of this city.

John Jameson, father of Mrs. E. B. Collings and Mrs. John Chahoon.

Amasa Jones, father of Joel and Joseph Jones, of Philadelphia.

Lewis Ketcham, father of the late W. W. Ketcham.

Gilbert Laird, father of J. D. Laird, Glover Laird and Mrs. Joseph Easterline.

Josiah Lewis, father of Josiah Lewis.

H. F. Lamb, father of Miss Mary Lamb.

Peter P. Loop, father of Edward Sterling and John Millard Loop.

Charles Muer, father of Wm. P. Miner and Mrs. Jesse Thomas.

Samuel Maffet, father of Wm. R. Maffet.

Simon Monega, father of C. B. Monega and Mrs. P. R. Johnson.

Benjamin Perry, father of Misses Perry, Northampton Street.

Archippus Parrish, father of Chas. and G. H. Parrish and Mrs. F. W. Hunt.

Joseph Slocum, father of Mrs. Abi Butler.

Geo. Sively, father of Mrs. Judge Pfouts.

Abram Thomas, father of Mrs. Washington Lee.

E. Taylor, father of John, Thomas and Edmund Taylor and Mrs. E. H. Chase.

Phineas Waller, father of Rev. David J. Waller, Bloomsburg.

Luther Yarrington, father of Thomas O. Yarrington, Reading.

Peter Yarrington, father of Dilton Yarrington, Carbondale.

John P. Arndt removed with his family to Green Bay, Wisconsin, at an early day and left no descendants here, but he and his sons were men of mark in the pioneer days of the Territory. One son was drowned in the Susquehanna before he left Wilkes-Barre and another was shot dead by a fellow member on the floor of the Territorial Legislature of Wisconsin. Amasa Jones, father of Joel and Joseph Jones, had lost a leg, and as they had no cork legs in those days he walk-





ed about with a wooden one, and always appeared on the street in a flowing calico wrapper. The boys called him "Peg Leg Jones;" his business was that of making brooms and distilling pyroligneous acid, which was called "essence of smoke," in common parlance. It was used for flavoring hams, dried beef, etc., by sprinkling a few drops on the slices instead of smoking the meat in the usual way. The son Joel became a distinguished judge of the District Court of Philadelphia, while Joseph a Presbyterian divine of high repute, preached the word of God in the old 6th Church on Pine Street for many years.

Jesse Fell was proprietor of an ancient hostelry on Northampton Street still known as the "Old Fell House." It was here Lodge No. 61, F. & A. M., held its initiatory communication in or about the year 1794; and it was here also that the feasibility of burning anthracite coal in an open grate was first demonstrated in 1807.

The Moses Wood mentioned was an Englishman by birth and brought with him to this country a considerable amount of English gold and a large family of sons and daughters, now all dead I think except Isaac Wood, of Trenton, N. J. John G. and George B. Wood, of this city, are grandsons of Moses.

It is said that Mrs. President Garfield is a granddaughter of Jacob Rudolph. There are no sons or daughters of David Scott now living, but E. Greenough Scott, Esq., and Rev. Charles H. Kidder are grandsons of the judge.

George Denison had two sons, Henry M. and George; one of them, an Episcopal clergyman, married a daughter of President John Tyler. Ralph D. Lacoe, of Pittston, is a grandson of Francis Du Puy.

Gen. E. L. Dana is a grandson of Anderson Dana.

Joseph Davis was never married, he became insane and shot and killed a man named Diebel on Hazle Street; was acquitted on the ground of insanity and spent the remainder of his days in an insane asylum.

Barnet Ulp was grandfather of the Misses Alexander, of River Street. Gilbert Barnes was grandfather of Stewart L. and Albert Barnes, court crier.

Abram Pike was the father of Hannah Porter who several years ago was accidentally shot in the hand and arm by a then young member of the bar while gunning for squirrels in the timber growing along the river in the Kingston side, opposite this city. Joshua Miner was grandfather of Dr. J. L. Miner, of this city.

Dr. G. W. Trott was grandfather of Judge Stanley Woodward.

It is not to be presumed that the parties

whose names are mentioned in the list all lived within our present city limits. Wilkes-Barre at that time extended from Hanover on the south, to Pittston on the north, and the occupation of the major portion of persons named was farming. Esquire Yarrington is undoubtedly correct so far as his list extends, but it seems to me that he has left a wide gap in the upper part of Wilkes-Barre Township. My memory does not go back as far as 1818 by several years, but I know many old citizens who must have lived there at that time whose names are not on the list. For instance, there was Benjamin Courtright, farmer, father of John M., and James Courtright, of this city. "Uncle Fritz Wagner," farmer, and next to him James Stark, farmer and merchant, father of Henry and John M. Stark, of West Pittston; John Stark on Mill Creek, farmer, father of John Stark, Mrs. G. M. Miller and Mrs. O. A. Parsons, Cornelius Stark, father of Col. B. F. Stark, of this city; Crandall Wilcox, farmer who owned the place, afterwards property of John Searl, and his son Samuel Wilcox, who worked the mines at Mill Creek slope; Thomas Williams farmer, who owned the now John Mitchell place, and his sons Thomas, Ezra, and George W. Williams; Thomas Osborne, laborer, Punkin Hollow, great grandfather of the Misses Wildoner of this city; Stephen Abbott farmer and his son John Abbott, father of the Misses Cassie and Lucy Abbott of this city, Benjamin Bailey, tanner and currier at the Corners; Cornelius or Case Courtright shoemaker, Hiram Post, laborer, Thomas Joslyn laborer, whose son Thomas was the first man killed in the mines in this coal region; Thomas Woolley, farmer who raised a large family of sons and daughters; Matthias Hollenback miller, "Crazy Matt" so-called, as his mental infirmity required that he be restrained of his liberty for many years previous to his death; George Dickover mason and plasterer, father of William Dickover of this city; Hezekiah Parsons of Laurel Run, farmer and manufacturer, father of Calvin Parsons, and Stephen Gould, father of the Goulds who were active business men on the Lehigh, lived on the back road above Mr. Parsons' place, and others probably as the upper portion of Wilkes-Barre was well settled at that time.

W. J.

#### Eighty-Eight Years Old

The Pittston Gazette says that Hon. D. S. Koon and daughters and Mrs. C. E. Bennett left for Tunkhannock, where they were to celebrate the 88th birthday of Mrs. Koon's sister, Mrs. Maria Swartz, on March 27. All the other members of the family were expected to be present, including relatives from Scranton and Wilkes-Barre.





## DEATH OF JOSEPH BROWN.

**The Ex-Banker Passes Quietly Away After an Illness of Less Than a Week's Duration.**

The familiar form of Joseph Brown will no longer be seen on our streets. The Record had announced that Mr. Brown was indisposed and confined to his house, but no one, outside of his family and a few intimate friends, supposed that he was seriously ill. On March 19 he complained of feeling unwell, but attended to business the same as usual. On Monday March 21 he told his wife that he was feeling much better and went up to his office. In the evening, after returning to his home, he was seized with a violent pain in the region of the heart and fainted away. His family were greatly alarmed. Dr. Mayer was summoned in haste and upon his arrival found Mr. Brown in an unconscious state with the pulse beating at 160. On Tuesday the patient seemed to rally a little, but Dr. Mayer saw the case was hopeless. The heart had refused to do its work. There were also indications of pneumonia, but not of a dangerous character. Mr. Brown continued to sink slowly until five minutes of seven last Thursday when death relieved him of his sufferings. He was surrounded by his family and a few immediate friends.

Seventy-one years ago, the second day of March, Joseph Brown first saw the light of day in a little town in the north of Ireland. At the early age of 20 he bade farewell to home and friends and set sail for America to make his fortune. Like a great many others of his class young Brown did not find the road to fortune and fame in the new country a very smooth one, but he was possessed of an indomitable perseverance, backed with a determination that he must succeed. To this is due his success in after life. In 1838 the poor boy from the north of Ireland was earning a dollar a day in a coal mine at Summit Hill, Carbon County. He was one of the few laborers of that early day who could read and write and his services were always in demand by his less fortunate co-laborers who were wont to communicate with their friends in the old country. As a letter writer he was a great success and it is unnecessary to say that his services did not go unrewarded. After a year or so spent in the mines Mr. Brown went boating on the Lehigh Canal, running between Mauch Chunk and Philadelphia. He did not like this occupation, however, and in 1840 or thereabouts he removed to Wilkes-Barre. For two or three years he lived with John McCarragher and then went into the lumber business in partnership with John Faser.

The firm prospered and Mr. Brown saved his money. Thinking there was more money in the grocery than the lumber business, the new firm of Brown & Wilson was formed, who conducted a general mercantile business on West Market Street, where the Brown bank building now stands. Mr. Brown always thought he would make a successful banker, and with this object in view he associated himself with Alex. McLean, Alex. Gray, John Faser, Thomas Wilson, F. W. Hunt and others in the incorporation of the First National Bank of this city, which is to-day one of the soundest institutions of the kind in the State. Afterwards Mr. Brown, in company with Alexander Gray, went into the private banking business. The bank was successful until the downfall of the New York banking firm of Henry Clews & Co., with whom Brown's bank had large dealings. This was in 1873, the bank losing \$52,000 with Clews, \$3,000 with Jay Cooke & Co., and \$7,000 with the Union Banking Co. of Philadelphia, in all about \$63,000. Mr. Brown endeavored to bear up under this misfortune and succeeded in doing so for five years, having made a settlement with his creditors. The pressure finally proved too strong, and on May 16, 1878 the bank again closed its doors, never to open them again. Abram H. Reynolds was made assignee. The net liabilities were about \$145,000, and the net assets about \$96,000. For a time there was great indignation, but the sequel showed that Mr. Brown had not failed rich but was a poor man. Mr. Brown then went into the real estate business, in which he was engaged up to the time of his death.

Mr. Brown was blessed with a geniality of soul that, in spite of his financial misfortunes, made a host of friends for him. He was a good citizen, a kind husband and a loving father.

In 1850 deceased married Miss Annie Gray, daughter of Alex. Gray, of this city, and eight children were the result of the union, only three of whom survive—Alex. G., who is engaged in the seed business in Philadelphia, and Miss Emma and Miss Edith, who reside at home. Matthew Brown, a brother of the ex-banker, is engaged in farming in the vicinity of Harvey's Lake. Two other brothers, John and James, reside in Missouri, the former being a minister of the gospel. Mr. Brown was a Republican in politics and a member of Memorial Church.

All that was mortal of the late Joseph Brown was laid away in Hellenback Cemetery Monday, March 28. A large number of friends met at the family residence, including a notable number of old citizens, deceased having been a resident of Wilkes-Barre for 50 years. The services were conducted by Rev. C. R. Gregory, pastor of de-





ceased, assisted by Rev. Dr. Hodge and Rev. Dr. Parke. The pall bearers were W. W. Loomis, W. S. Parsons, T. J. Chase, B. G. Carpenter, Isaiah M. Leach, and Samuel Roberts.

#### Christian Conrad's Fatal Injury.

On March 16, Christian Conrad, a well-known miner of this city, 52 years of age, was injured by a fall of top rock in the Hollenback, from the effects of which he died March 29, after an amount of suffering that must have made death welcome. His hip was fractured and there were extensive internal injuries. Mr. Conrad came to Wilkes-Barre from Germany in 1855, since which time he held several responsible positions as mine boss—at the old Landmesser breaker, the Newport breaker, the Empire and the Mocaquana. It was during his term at the latter mine that the frightful disaster of year before last occurred, he being charged with the responsibility therefor, tried and convicted. The penalty was a \$50 fine, which his friends allege was paid by others who were equally responsible with him, but who were so fortunate as to escape arrest. Mr. Conrad married in Wilkes-Barre but his wife, a Mrs. Loch, died 12 years ago. He is survived by 6 children, all adults except one. A son, Christian, is a barber in Plymouth. Philip Conrad, of Ashley, Nicholas and Peter, of Wilkes-Barre, are brothers, and Mrs. Spender, of this city is a sister. Funeral Thursday at 3 from the family residence on Ross Street.

#### A Tailor's Long Life Ended.

For more than a third of a century there has been a merchant tailor in our midst, and he followed his trade for a even a longer period before coming here. His name was Henry Christian Engelke, and he died of paralysis on Tuesday, March 29. Mr Engelke was born in Hanover, Germany, in June, 1802, coming to America and settling in Wilkes-Barre in 1852. He married a Mrs. Kusenke, and for many years was in the tailoring business with her two sons, under the firm name of Engelke & Kuschke. His second wife was Mary Barth, who survives him. He had no children by either marriage. He has always been a diligent worker, attending strictly to business, and was engaged at his trade up to the day of his prostration, on Friday last. He passed out of life quietly and peacefully. He was of quiet demeanor and an excellent and substantial citizen. He was an Odd Fellow, both of subordinate lodge and encampment, and was a member of the German Lutheran Church. He had no relatives in America. Funeral Sunday at 2 from his late residence, 72 South River Street.

#### An Aged Lady's Death.

Our townsman, Joseph Birkbeck, met with a bereavement on March 30, in the death of his mother, at Freeland. From the *Progress* we glean the following facts:

Mrs. Elizabeth Johnson Birkbeck passed peacefully unto her eternal rest, at the ripe age of 83 years, 1 month and 18 days. Deceased was born at Buck Hill, Stainmoor, near Brough, England, Feb. 12, 1804. Came to America with her husband, Joseph, in 1844. Finally located in South Heberton, where they built a house in 1860, in the centre of 400 acres. Mr. Birkbeck made the first clearing, built the first house and raised the first crop in South Heberton. Soon after her residence in the then wilderness, she perceived a deer coming over the hill, which had been worried by dogs; the deer seeing her made a direct line for her person, when she grasped an axe and killed it, by first breaking its front legs and then cutting its throat. Her husband, who was engaged as a miner, prospector and farmer, died some years ago, after placing his wife in indeed well-to-do circumstances. The fruits of their marriage were thirteen children, three of whom survive them: Joseph, real estate agent and broker at Wilkes-Barre; Thomas, real estate agent and drover; and Mrs. Wm. Johnson, both of this place.

#### A Bridge Contractor Dead.

William Best died at his home in Kingston March 30 at 7 o'clock, at the age of 70. He had been a sufferer some years from rheumatism, and a year ago his health failed entirely, confining him to the house almost constantly. A week ago pneumonia set in and his collapse speedily followed. Mr. Best is survived by his wife, but with him his own family disappears, his only remaining brother having died a few months ago at Utica, their birthplace. Mr. Best was a bridge contractor and builder, and in his prime was a man of note in this line of industry. His first connection hereabouts was with the building of bridges on the northern division of the D. L. & W. RR., then known as the Leggett's Creek RR. In similar capacity he was connected with the southern division of the same road, and later became bridge builder and master carpenter of the Lackawanna & Bloomsburg RR., in which capacity he continued while his health held out. Some years since when, on certain account, the question was raised as to the stability of the Wilkes-Barre bridge, he was one of a committee who made a thorough examination and report respecting it. While able, after retiring from the railroad, he carried on the picture frame business in Kingston. He was a consistent member of the M. E. Church, and in all respects a good citizen.





## THE FINCH FAMILY RE-UNION.

**A Woman who Has Lived in the Same House for Sixty-nine Years—Remarkable Instances of Longevity.**

[Carbondale Leader.]

The home of Philip and Fannie Felts, in Greenfield Township, Lackawanna County, was made joyous on Tuesday, Feb. 1, by a family gathering to celebrate the ninetieth birthday of Mrs. Fanny Spencer, who is keeping house on the old homestead where she first commenced after her marriage in 1818.

Fanny Spencer was born Feb. 1, 1797, in Pittston Township, Luzerne County. She came into Greenfield with her father, Isaac Finch, in 1810, was married to Leonard Spencer in 1818; commenced housekeeping on the farm on which she now resides, was the mother of eight children, of which six are now living; grand-children thirty-seven, now living twenty-six; great grandchildren fifty-four, now living forty-five. The oldest great grandchild is nearly twenty-four years old and married. She says the first Methodist meeting held in Greenfield (which then included Scott), was held in their house by Rev. Silas Comfort, about 1831. About six years after, she united with the M. E. Church and from that time until the present her house has ever been a welcome home for the itinerant.

Her father's family is remarkable for longevity, perhaps without a parallel in the county. Her father, Isaac Finch, was born in Plains Township, Luzerne County, Feb. 25, 1763, married Sarah Tompkins, Oct. 19, 1793, moved into Greenfield in 1809 and died March 10, 1848, being 85 years old. They had ten children, four of whom are still living. Isaac Finch the second, (better known as Captain Finch) was born Nov. 20, 1798; died April 14, 1860, being seventy-one years old. Nathaniel Finch was born Feb. 3, 1792; died June 20, 1884, being ninety-two years old. John G. Finch was born May 19, 1794; died Jan. 16, 1886, being ninety-two years old. When quite an aged man he said that whiskey had become so poor and poisonous he would drink no more of it. At the age of eighty he gave up the use of tobacco which resolution he kept the remainder of his life. Fanny Spencer nee Finch, was born Feb. 7, 1797, she is still living being ninety years old. Carpenter Finch was born Nov. 21, 1799; emigrated West; his whereabouts not known; if living, eighty-seven years old. Julia Foster nee Finch, was born April 23, 1802; died July 26, 1831, being twenty-nine years old. Levina Benson nee Finch, was born March 18, 1805; is living; eighty-one years old.

Sally Marson, nee Finch, was born May 4, 1808; living, being 79 years old. Solomon

Finch (better known as Deacon Finch) was born November 4, 1810, died September 24, 1880, being 70 years old. Polly Whipple, nee Finch, was born July 5, 1813, is living being 74 years old. Supposing that Carpenter Finch is living, the united ages of ten children with their parents would be 939 years. The average duration of life of each family is 78 years and 3 months.

**A Former Wilkes-Barrean Dead.**

[Owego, (N. Y.) Gazette.]

John S. Madden died at his residence in the town of Windham, Pa., near Nichols, March 22. Mr. Madden was born in Limerick, Ireland, June 14, 1806, and came to America in May, 1831, going to Silver Lake, Susquehanna County, Pa., where he resided two years. He removed thence to Wilkes-Barre, where he remained until 1844, when he came to Warren, Bradford County, and purchased a farm. Two years after he sold his farm and removed to Windham Centre, where he resided until his death. In 1846, he purchased a farm of 246 acres and built a saw mill and grist mill, and afterward a tannery. His buildings were destroyed by fire three times, the last time fifteen years ago, and were not rebuilt. Mr. Madden accumulated a handsome property, but lost largely in the failure of the Eureka Mowing Machine Manufacturing Co., at Towanda a few years ago. He was a man of great energy and public spirit. He was president of the projected Bradford railroad, and labored long and actively to secure its construction. He was a prominent Democrat. He leaves a wife, two sons and four daughters.

**Death of an Aged Luzerne Countian.**

James Ross, a well-known citizen of Dallas, died at his home on March 27, aged 93 years. Mr. Ross was one of the first settlers in Dallas, and had lived there during almost his entire life, as a farmer. Death was not unexpected, as he had been sinking gradually, owing to his advanced age, for a year or more.

Deceased leaves six children, all but one being married. The oldest, Shaver Ross, is living in Iowa; Samuel still lives in Dallas with his father, and Sterling, the third son, resides also at home, being still unmarried. Of the daughter, Lucinda lives in Kansas, the wife of Elam Honeywell; Elizabeth married Mr. Pinkman and lives in New York State, and Margaret is the wife of William Moore, living in Kansas.

James Ross was a native of Luzerne County, and has never lived outside its bounds since his birth in 1794. Funeral Tuesday at 2 p.m. at Carverton.





### The Late Wm. S. Davis.

The *Danville American* mentions the attendance upon the funeral of the late Wm. S. Davis, in that place, of Daniel Edwards and Rev. T. C. Edwards, of Kingston. The *American* says:

Early on Monday morning, March 21, W. S. Davis departed this life in the 78th year of his age. Mr. Davis was born in Glamorganshire, South Wales, in 1809. He emigrated to this country in 1839 and settled in Pottsville. In 1856 he came to Danville and for the past thirty years has resided here, following his occupation, that of a miner, excepting the last eight years, when his age compelled him to seek less arduous tasks. He had been assisting his son, Wm. C. Davis, until the infirmities of old age took a strong hold on him, resulting in his death on last Monday morning after a short illness. Mr. Davis was a good citizen and beloved by all his acquaintances. His wife died some sixteen years ago. He leaves two sons to mourn his loss, W. C. Davis, of this place, and Daniel S. Davis, of Kingston.

### Twenty-Five Years in Town.

It was just 25 years ago Monday that our townsman, H. H. Derr came to Wilkes-Barre, and in conversation with him on Saturday relative to this quarter-centennial, Mr. Derr said it was remarkable what advancement Wilkes-Barre had made in that space of time. This advancement is in territorial area, in population, in railroad facilities and in the value of real estate. At that date, March 23, 1862, Mr. Derr came into town alone and on foot. Instead of being the important railroad centre that it now is, making it one of the most advantageously located business points in the country, it had only one road, the Lehigh & Susquehanna, which had a depot at the lower end of Main Street and hoisted a few passengers up the Ashley planes. But even this means of exit was suspended in the winter season. The only outlet north was via the Lackawanna & Bloomsburg road at Kingston. Mr. Derr says his brother, Thompson, had preceded him some six years and that the day after his (H. H. Derr's) arrival the two brothers walked to Pittston and back, in the absence of any railroad. That year the insurance firm of Thompson Derr & Bro. was formed, though the business was not extensive enough to require an office until October, when a lease was made with Ziba Bennett for the rooms over what is now the Adams Express. These rooms were occupied for 16 years. The business, no longer local, but comprising State agencies, now requires a force of 14 in the Wilkes-Barre office, and 150 throughout the State.

At that date Wilkes-Barre had a population of about 4,000—now it is estimated to have 40,000. The borough extended from North Street to a short distance below Ross, and from the river to the old canal, where now stands the Lehigh Valley R.R. depot.

Not only has the population been multiplied by 10, but the value of real estate has advanced, fully as much if not more. Mr. Derr says he was offered in 1862 the property on Public Square where Isaac Long's store is now located, at \$75 a foot front. Property on Public Square to-day is worth \$1,000 a foot.

The borough of that day has become a populous city and has added suburb after suburb until scarcely a trace of old Wilkes-Barre is discoverable. The latest addition is that being made by Mr. Derr himself, whose recent purchase of 40 acres, the Conyugham farm in North Wilkes-Barre, will throw hundreds of desirable building lots into the market. Its proximity to the Lehigh Valley shops and the Sheldon axle works, as well as its nearness to town, make it particularly desirable for homes for workingmen and already 200 lots have been sold, some as low as \$10 a front foot. It would be interesting to know the value of this tract 25 years from now.

Mr. Derr came here without capital but by industry he has become highly successful in business. Besides this he has taken such an interest in the development of the town and the advancement of the interests of the community that he has for many years been an indispensable factor in our local life. While he has achieved a competency out of our people, he has always spent his money here and in that way has replaced everything he took out. His business life has not been a parasitic one by any means.

His host of friends will unite in congratulating him on passing the quarter-century post in his business life, with a satisfactory record for the past and a bright outlook for the future.

### An Old Wilkes-Barre Editor.

[North Wales Record.]

Samuel R. Gordon, of North Wales, has in his possession an old copy of the *Pennsylvania Correspondent*, published by Asher Miner, in Doylestown. It is of the date of September 15, 1823, and is interesting from its antiquity. Asher Miner was the father of Bucks County newspapers. He came from Hartford, Connecticut, in 1804, and commenced the publication of the first newspaper in that county that had a continued existence. The *Correspondent* was the predecessor of the present *Bucks County Intelligencer*.





## OLD TIME RIVER NAVIGATION.

Interesting Reminiscence by Caleb E. Wright, Esq.—A Novel Rope that was Used, all Knowledge of Whose Making is now Lost.

[Letter to the Editor.]

In passing over the Lackawanna & Bloomsburg RR., a certain point near the Plymouth Academy always calls up recollections of the time when it was the scene of busy enterprise. It might be entitled to the appellation of a shipyard. There was not its equal in the valley. It was the point of shipment of coal. Here the Smiths, pioneers in the traffic, constructed their arks, on the side of an excavated basin, as I remember it, three or four hundred feet square. From the basin, a canal outlet led to the river. This was a dry basin, until filled by the back flow, in times of freshets.

The bottoms of the arks, ninety feet in length, were first constructed, the lower side uppermost. Then they were turned over, and the sides and diamond shaped ends added. They were sometimes filled with coal at once, awaiting the rising of the river, and when afloat, towed into the stream. Four men formed the crew. The pilot had charge of the front oar; the steersman the hind one.

I had the honour, in my boyhood, of taking two voyages on coal arks. The excitement of river navigation was very great in going down to tide water. But the up-river tramp, on foot, not so agreeable. But we formed lively squads on the march, and found abundant supplies of ham and eggs at the taverns.

I have made the foregoing prefatory to the notice of an implement in river navigation, which I am disposed to think, was original with the coal trade. It was the ark rope, as then called, and one man enjoyed the monopoly of its manufacture. This man's name was Lee. At one time he owned a valuable farm on the east side of the river, near Shickshinny. A prevailing fever carried off one of his children. He denounced the region as unfit to live in, sold out at a sacrifice and moved to the western part of our State. There, in a year's time, another child died during the prevalence of a fatal epidemic. He said this was more than he could stand, and pulled out for Ohio. Very soon, in the new locality, he lost two more. He swore vengeance against the Buckeye region, and, bankrupted in means, came back to Luzerne. With his anti-febrile convictions in full blast, he severed connection with the human race and squatted in the woods at the foot of the North Mountain, back of Harvey's Lake, five miles from the nearest neighbor. A difficult place, as he thought, for a fever to find out. He put up his cabin on the margin of a small pond,

where his inventive genius found scope in a branch of manufacture, that came in and went out with his own existence. In fact it gave him local immortality. I don't know of any other artificer, at least in that quarter of the globe, who ever made a hawser a hundred feet long and big as a man's arm, out of hickory sprouts. A cable had need of strength, required to stop a heavily freighted ark in a swift current. But old Lee's ark rope could do it.

These hawsers were brought by him, one at a time, to Smith's basin, where they each brought a dollar or two. I more than once saw the old mountaineer arrive, with the enormous rope wound round the body of a ringboned Bucephalus and himself on top of it.

C. E. WRIGHT.

Doylestown, March 28, 1887.

## Wilcox Genealogical Data Wanted.

[Letter to the Editor.]

Isaac and Crandal Wilcox, brothers, came from Rhode Island to the Wyoming Valley after 1772, escaped the massacre in 1778 and returned to Rhode Island. Isaac there married Nancy Newcomb, whose mother was a Gardner, came again to Wyoming and a few years later moved to Dutchess County, New York, where he died in 1810. Crandal came to Wyoming again about 1791. They had a sister who married Daniel Rosekrans and went to Ohio.

In 1792 Amos Wilcox, of Minisink, conveyed to Isaac Wilcox, husbandman, and Crandal Wilcox, blacksmith, land in Wilkes-Barre Township.

Esen Wilcox in 1771 occupied land in Pittston on his father Stephen's right. Esen was killed in the battle.

Elisha Wilcox sold to Ebenezer Marcy, Aug. 1, 1773, his land in Pittston and took up his residence in Putnam Township, on the Tunkhannock. In 1778, on his way down the river to warn the inhabitants at Wyoming of the enemy's approach, he was taken prisoner. What became of him?

Daniel Wilcox appears as one of the grantees in the Indian Deed of Purchase 1754. He was from Connecticut.

How were Amos, Daniel, Elisha and Esen related to Isaac and Crandal, if at all?

Any information regarding these people is desired by William A. Wilcox, Wyoming, Pa.

The newly organized Bucks County Society has had a seal cut. It is a fac simile of the first seal of Bucks County. It is a shield in the centre, with the Penn circles or balls across the middle. Above is the tree branching forth, while on the sides depending from the top of the shield are the vines or branches. Around the edge is the inscription "Bucks County Historical Society—Incorporated 1885."





### Origin of the Union League.

EDITOR RECORD: This organization originated in Luzerne County, which fact, I presume, most of your readers are not aware of. The writer hereof and four others, then members of the Luzerne County Executive Committee, S. P. Longstreet, chairman, were the initial members, the first who subscribed to the obligations of the League.

A man by the name of Hosea was sent to Harrisburg in February, 1862, conveying from us letters of introduction and recommendation to the Republican members of the Pennsylvania Legislature, expressing a hope that they would give the matter their favorable consideration, that they would introduce the League and get it started among their constituents.

Democrats at Harrisburg suspected that some movement antagonistical to their interest was being inaugurated, and while Hosea was absent in Philadelphia a day or two, parties succeeded in gaining access to his trunk and abstracted therefrom papers relating to the secret workings of the League; also our endorsements of the organization, which were published in the *Harrisburg Patriot and Union*, and many other papers. The *Patriot and Union* was curious to know who the endorsers of the organization were, etc., and the *Luzerne Union*, of Wilkes-Barre, responded by giving us all a raking down, calling the writer a John Brown Abolitionist, which, at that time, was about as approbrious an epithet, viewed from the *Union's* standpoint, as could well be applied to a person.

Hosea, to whom reference has been made, resided, I think, at Carbondale. He was afterwards assistant provost marshal in time of the war, and was shot and killed by a deserter whom he was endeavoring to arrest.

The Union League speedily grew from an apparently obscure origin to national prominence and importance. It is closely connected with, in fact it comprises part of, the history of the war of the Rebellion. It rendered efficient aid to the party in power, both during and subsequent to the war.

C. J. BALDWIN.

Norwalk, O., March 23, 1887.

### The Organizers of the Union League.

A writer in the *Leader* takes exception to the reminiscence furnished the *RECORD* by Columbus J. Baldwin, of Norwalk, O., relative to the organizing of the Union League, and in the course of the article says:

It is true that the organization originated in Luzerne Co., but Hosea Carpenter, of Scott township, who was sent to Harrisburg with the important letters from the Luzerne

County Executive Committee, of which Mr. S. B. Longstreet (a patriot who thought he could do more good by staying at home than by going to war) was chairman, to the Pennsylvania Legislature. Carpenter was a half-witted fellow, and died a natural death, and therefore was not shot and killed by a deserter he was endeavoring to arrest while serving in the capacity of assistant provost marshal. Mr. Baldwin who recalls this interesting League reminiscence, was formerly a resident of Jackson township, subsequently of this city and was at one time Clerk of Courts of Luzerne. He was a bright, witty fellow, fully as patriotic as Mr. Longstreet, and did considerable newspaper [in the *RECORD* OF THE TIMES] writing under the nom de plume of "Mountaineer."

### A Former Beach Haven Lady Dead.

Mrs. Anna Seely, widow of Andrew Seely, a well known resident of lower Luzerne County, died on Monday, April 4, at the residence of her son-in-law, J. W. Dreisbach, with whom she had lived for seven years. She was sick only a few days and death resulted from pneumonia. Mrs. Seely's maiden name was Fenstermacher, and she was born in Salem Township 69 years ago. Her husband, who was a farmer, died seven years ago. They had no children. Mrs. Seely is survived by three children from her first marriage—Mrs. J. W. Dreisbach and J. M. Bryner, both of this city, and Mrs. Josephine Hendershot, of Kingston. Mrs. Jacob Housenick, of this city, is a sister, also Mrs. Rombach, of Watontown, and Mrs. Michael Hess, of Salem, and Mrs. Philip Weiss, of Hollenback. John Fenstermacher, of Salem, is the only surviving brother. Mrs. Seely was a member of the Presbyterian Church and worshipped at the South Wilkes-Barre Chapel. She was a woman who was held in very high esteem and her death will be sincerely mourned, not alone by her immediate family, but by all who knew her. Funeral Thursday at 8 a.m., from residence of Mr. Dreisbach, 101 Hanover Street, proceeding on 10 o'clock train to Beach Haven by L. & B. RR. Interment at Beach Haven.

At the annual meeting of the Montgomery County Historical Society the following officers were recently elected: President, Theo. W. Bean; Vice Presidents, ex-Judge H. C. Hoover and Dr. Hiram Corson; Secretary, Isaac Clusen; Treasurer, William McDermott; Trustees, H. M. Kratz, Benjamin Wertzner, James Detweiler, J. K. Gotwals and William McDermott. Interesting papers on several historical topics were read.





**Latitude of Wilkes-Barre.**

41 degrees, 14 minutes, 17 seconds in 1755, as taken by John Jenkins.

41 degrees, 14 minutes, 27 seconds in 1770, as taken by Samuel Wallis.

41 degrees, 14 minutes, 40 seconds in 1787, as given by David H. Conyngham.

41 degrees, 14 minutes, 40.4 seconds in 1881, as taken by second geological survey.

These observations were made at the following points: The third and fourth on the Public Square. The second at Fort Durkee, situate on the bank of the Susquehanna about where the residence of Wm. L. Conyngham stands. The first at a point unknown.

The distances apart, in a southern direction, would be: the third, 2.4 rods south of the fourth; the second about 80 rods south of the fourth, and the first about 142 rods south of the fourth.

I accept the fourth point of observation as giving the most perfect result, as it was done with modern instruments made expressly for that kind of work, with great care and at large expense, and after many observations, in a house built for the purpose, covering a considerable period of time; while the others were made by common surveyors' compasses in the woods or on the open plain.

The agreement is very close considering the great disadvantages under which the early observers labored. Who made the Conyngham observation it is not stated. He was on a visit to the valley in 1787, and noted in his journal "Wilkes-Barre is in 41 degrees 14 minutes 40 seconds north latitude."

STEVENS JENKINS.

**Not a Relative of Mrs. Garfield.**

EDITOR RECORD: In a communication in the RECORD published March 28, 1887, signed "W. J." is the statement that "It is said that Mrs. President Garfield is a granddaughter of Jacob Rudolph." Jacob Rudolph is in Mr. Yarrington's list of business men in Wilkes-Barre in 1818. He married a daughter of Darius Preston, of Hanover. Mrs. President Garfield was no relative of his. Her great grandfather was Jacob Rudolph, of Maryland. Her grandfather was John Rudolph, who removed from Maryland to Ohio as early as 1806. Her father was born in Ohio, and was alive there three years ago, and has no knowledge of any of his uncles or cousins coming to Pennsylvania.

H. B. PLUMB.

Dr. H. Hollister, of Providence, has a series of interesting articles running in the Saturday issues of the *Seranton Truth*, descriptive of life in the Lackawanna Valley 40 years ago.

**Slight Change in Name.**

At the March meeting of City Council the name of Careytown Road was changed to Carey Avenue. The Careys, for whom the thoroughfare was named, were pioneers in old Wyoming and their memory is held in high esteem. Eleazer Carey was one of the first settlers in Wyoming Valley, coming first in 1769 and bringing his family from Connecticut three years later. Of the sons, John was a soldier in the Revolutionary Army, settling afterwards below Wilkes-Barre on the river road, the community being known ever after as Careytown. Nathan was in the battle of Wyoming, but escaped. Benjamin and Comfort were mere lads when the battle occurred, and afterwards they settled in Hanover Township. Benjamin was the father of ten children, of whom Sarah, who married Bateman Downing, was the mother of our townsman Reuben Downing.

**Loveland Genealogy.**

George Loveland, Esq., of this city, has been engaged for several years in an interested search for data pertaining to the Loveland family. He already has enough material to fill a good sized volume. The other day he received a copy of the Rutland, Vermont, RECORD, dated Feb. 26, 1887, giving the following interesting reference to a remarkably long-lived family of his kinsfolk:

A remarkable family gathering was held last Friday afternoon at the residence of Mr. S. B. Loveland, in Proctor, one of our best known inhabitants, who has lived all his life on a farm here, which has been in the possession of his family for almost a hundred years. It was a re-union of all the members of his family, with the exception of two, who found it impossible to attend. There were present Mrs. Wheeler, of Brandon, age 90 years; Mrs. Goodrich, of Brandon, age 88 years; Mrs. Betsey Mead, of Rutland Valley, age 84 years; Mrs. Ruth Parmelee, of Toledo, Ohio, age 80 years; Mrs. Hewitt of Brandon, age 75 years; Mrs. Butterfield, of Tenbridge, age 72 years, all of them sisters of Mr. Loveland and widows, and besides these Miss Lozina Loveland, age 75 years; A. N. Loveland Pittsford, age 67 years, another sister and brother, and Mr. Loveland himself who is 70 years old. The united age of these nine members of the family is 701 years, to which must be added the age of another sister and brother not present, 160 years, making a total of 861 years, a record which is hardly, if ever, excelled. Their health, in spite of their advanced age, the best and they all have preserved the use of all their faculties in a remarkable degree. All of them but one were born and brought up on the old homestead.





### An Autograph Letter of Washington.

The RECORD is permitted to reprint a hitherto unpublished letter from Gen. George Washington to Major Samuel Hodgdon. Major Hodgdon was Commissary of Subsistence in the army of the Revolutionary war and a personal friend of Washington. The original letter is in the possession of Mrs. Dr. Urquhart, who is a granddaughter of Major Hodgdon. The letter was written at the close of the Revolutionary War, between the sessions of Congress, which opened at Princeton, N. J., June 30, 1783 and closed at Annapolis, Md., Nov. 26, 1783:

PHILADELPHIA, 13th Dec. 1783.—SIR: The Trunk, and two boxes or cases which you brought from New York for me, with a few other articles, which I shall send to you tomorrow, I would have go by Land as my Papers, and other valuable things are contained in them.

The Boxes and other parcels which were sent from Rockyhill by Col. Morgan, may go by water to Alexandria, for which place a vessel (Col. Biddle informs me) is just on the point of sailing, and will probably be the last for that River, Potomack, this season—let me intreat therefore that the opportunity may not be lost in sending them by her.

Inclosed is 40 dollars—5 more than your account.—I am sir as

Most obed. Servt  
G. WASHINGTON.

SAM'L HODGDON Esq.

### Almost a Golden Wedding.

On April 2d occurred the 45th anniversary of the wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Morgan. Mr. Morgan is a Wilkes-Barrean by continuous residence of over half a century, and was married on April 2, 1842 by Rev. Mr. Bristol, then pastor of the M. E. church in Wilkes-Barre. A year later he entered the boot and shoe business, the firm being Kline & Morgan until 1847, when Mr. Morgan became sole proprietor. The establishment grew into large proportions, becoming one of the substantial industries of the town, by reason of Mr. Morgan's sterling business qualities. In 1879 its owner and founder had the satisfaction of placing the business in the hands of two of his sons who are now engaged as wholesale manufacturers with a large factory on North Main Street.

In 1868, though still engaged in the shoe business Mr. Morgan established the hardware firm of C. Morgan & Son on the present location of the People's Bank. In March of last year he severed his connection with this concern also, leaving it in the

hands of his three other sons who conduct the business on the sound principles which have made it a permanent success. Mr. Morgan has now laid aside the active responsibilities of business life, and has the rare pleasure of seeing his five sons established on their own feet in control of two of the important industries of the town.

On Saturday there was a quiet family reunion at the residence on North Franklin Street, all of Mr. and Mrs. Morgan's children being present. A golden wedding is an anniversary of rare occurrence in Wilkes-Barre, but Mr. and Mrs. Morgan have reason to anticipate such a celebration, the former being 73 and the latter 64 years of age, both being hale and hearty.

### Another Old Land Mark Going.

That historic old residence corner of Franklin and Union Streets, once occupied by Chief Justice John Bannister Gibson, is now in process of demolition to make room for the block of six private residences to occupy the same lot extending from Union street to the old canal, now L.V. RR. track. This is an old structure, so old that perhaps no one living here remembers when it was built or by whom; the frame is yet staunch and sound, but the style of architecture is too antiquated for the present generation, and more than that, land is too scarce to allow a half acre to each dwelling here in the central portion of the city.

The old frame building adjoining the *Leader* office about to be removed to make room for two fine wholesale stores, though it may not be considered as among the "old landmarks," is yet not of very recent date. It was first used as a public house by Archippus Parrish, after the destruction by fire of his former hotel, which stood on the east side of the Public Square, about where Josiah Lewis' stores now are. The old tavern was burned on the night of 22d February, about the year 1831. The sleighing was fine on that day and there was to be a Washington's birth-day ball at night. Bright fires had been kindled to warm up some of the upper rooms for the comfort of expected guests during the early evening, when at about 9 o'clock a cry of fire was heard on the Public Square and flames were seen shooting up through the shingles of the roof, and in half an hour the old hostelry was reduced to ashes. The new building was used but a short time before Mr. Parrish removed to another hotel, corner of Public Square and East Market Street, which was also destroyed by fire many years ago.





## INTERESTING REMINISCENCES.

**Seventy Years Ago in Wilkes-Barre—Some Early Buildings—Two Brother Editors—Teaching a Blind Sister Her Letters with Wooden Type.**

A RECORD man met Isaac M. Thomas the other day, that gentleman remarking that his mother, widow of Jesse Thomas, could give the desired information in regard to the old house at the corner of Franklin and Union Streets, now undergoing demolition to make room for a handsome block of residences. Mrs Thomas was accordingly called on at her home on South Franklin Street. She remarked that the old house was built about 1811 or 1812, by her father, Hon. Charles Miner and that she and her brother, William P. Miner, founder of the RECORD or THE TIMES, were born under its roof. While her father was engaged in its erection he occupied the house at the corner of Union and River Streets, now occupied by Dr. Ingham. In 1817 Mr. Miner sold it to Judge Burnside, who was a distinguished jurist, the former removing to West Chester, where he established the *Village Record*.

All the four corners except one, that occupied many years later by Hon. Andrew Beaumont's house, were built upon. These were older than Mr. Miner's house and the one in the southwest corner is still standing. It was called the Evans house, its owner being quite a prominent man in his day. On the northeast corner, now the Stickney Block, was the Palmer house, known to a later generation as the "old red house." The Palmers afterwards removed to Mt. Holly, and they were a large family. The Beaumont house was built years after, in the early days of the canal and was intended by Mr. Beaumont as a ware house for canal shipping rather than for a dwelling.

Franklin Street ended at Union 70 years ago. Above Union it was called the "green lane" and was a favorite playground for our parents and grandparents during the first decade or two of the century. There were no houses above Union except that of Capt. Bowman, now the residence of Mrs. Col. A. H. Bowman.

Owing to the fact that Mrs. Thomas spent most of her earlier days away from Wilkes-Barre, she cannot tell who occupied the Miner house subsequent to Judge Burnside, though she recollects that Joseph Le Clerc lived there in 1833.

Mrs. Thomas well remembers the consecration of the first St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in 1823, by Bishop White. It was a great event in Wilkes-Barre and as Mrs. Thomas had lived among Quaker influences, she (then nine years old) had never seen a surpliced clergyman before. She remembers coming to visit Wilkes-Barre at that time

and that a fellow traveler in the stage coach over the Easton pike was a gentleman who was also coming to Wilkes-Barre. The little girl and her mother did not know the gentleman, though they were curious to, because he was constant in his kindly attentions to the child. What was their surprise at afterwards seeing their fellow-passenger a conspicuous figure at the church consecration, he being a candidate for ordination, Bishop White laying his hands upon his head with the bestowal of the apostolic blessing. Rev. Samuel Sitgreaves—for this proved to be his name—served as rector of the parish for a year, was followed by Rev. Enoch Huntington in 1824, and by Rev. Dr. James May in 1827. Prior to the coming of Mr. Sitgreaves, Samuel Bowman had conducted lay services at St. Stephen's and he afterwards entered the ministry and became an assistant bishop. Bishop Bowman died in 1861, and his wife was a sister of the young deacon who rode across the mountains with little Miss Miner on that bright June day in 1823. The church, Mrs. Thomas says, was a low, frame building painted white, with a gable end to the street, a flight of half a dozen steps leading up to a long porch. The Presbyterian Church was built a little later and was similar to the Episcopal except that its pulpit was at the front while that of the Episcopal was at the farther end from the entrance.

Mrs. Thomas has a host of interesting reminiscences. She remembers Rev. Dr. May and Bishop Onderdonk (Episcopal), Rev. Nicholas Murray (Presbyterian), who afterwards gained considerable prominence as "Kirwan" in his celebrated contest with Archbishop Hughes, of the Roman Catholic Church (1829-33). It was during Mr. Murray's pastorate that the church, which had been partly Congregational hitherto, fully adopted the Presbyterian form of government.

Her description of her father's printing office and the manner in which he taught a blind daughter, Sarah, to read, by having her learn the shape of large wooden job type, is interesting in the extreme. When sent to an institution for teaching the blind her parents were informed that she was the first child ever admitted who was able to read. She had a marvelous memory and was afterwards an invaluable assistant to her father in his arduous work of writing the "History of Wyoming," she accompanying him on his visits to the old people, listening closely to their stirring narratives of pioneer privations and Indian hostilities, and then recalling them to her father when he returned home to put his data on paper.

Charles Miner was born in Connecticut in 1780 and came to Wilkes-Barre in 1799,





where his brother Asher (great grandfather of the present Asher Miner) established the *Luzerne County Federalist* in 1801, in which year the *Wilkes-Barre Gazette*, owned by Thomas Wright, ceased publication. Asher Miner married the only daughter of Thomas Wright and Charles married his grand-daughter, Letitia, daughter of Joseph Wright, who had edited his father's paper. In 1802 the two Miners formed a partnership, which continued two years, at which time Asher moved to Doylestown. In 1807 Charles was elected to the Pennsylvania Legislature and was re-elected the following year. In 1810 he sold the *Federalist*, to his two apprentices, Steuben Butler and Sidney Tracy. He resumed the office in 1811, but in 1816 sold to Isaac A. Chapman and located in West Chester 1817. In 1824 he was elected to Congress and was re-elected two years later. In July 1825 he was re-joined by his brother Asher and they published the *Village Record* until its sale by them in 1834. It is still hale and hearty. Charles returned to Wyoming Valley in 1832, Asher following in 1834 and they ended their lives on adjoining farms near Wilkes-Barre, now Miner's Mills. His "History of Wyoming," was published in 1845 and is the standard work on that subject. His death occurred in 1865 at the ripe age of 85. Asher, who was the grandfather of Hon. Charles A. Miner, died in 1840.

#### Death of a Young Lawyer.

Catarrhal pneumonia of a week's duration blotted out a promising young life on Friday, April 1, that of James Buchanan Shaver, Esq., of Plymouth, one of the youngest members of the Luzerne Bar. He was born in Dallas, Jan. 24, 1859, and was a son of Andrew Jackson Shaver, and a grandson of William Shaver, of Dallas. The family have resided in or near Wyoming Valley since 1796. Deceased moved to Plymouth when a mere lad, soon after his father's death at Dallas. He was a faithful and diligent student and was graduated with honors from Wesleyan University in the class of 1881, when 22 years of age. After graduating he returned to Plymouth and taught in the public schools for three years. He registered as a law student with J. A. Opp, Esq., and was admitted to the bar of Luzerne County last June, after a highly creditable examination. He subsequently opened offices in Plymouth and Wilkes-Barre and the trial of the cases upon which he was engaged in his very brief practice stamped him as a lawyer who would have adorned his profession had his life been

spared. He was a member of the Methodist Church and an efficient teacher in the Sunday school. He was a brother of Dr. Wm. Davenport Shafer and a cousin of Dr. Harry L. Whitney and the Davenport Brothers of Plymouth.

It is said that since the illness of Prof. Howland, of the Wyoming Seminary, he had been invited to fill his position during that illness, and would have accepted had he not himself fallen a victim to the same disease.

The funeral took place Monday at 11 o'clock from his late home. Interment in Plymouth.

On Saturday the Luzerne bar held a meeting to take action upon its bereavement, and George B. Kulp, esq., was made chairman and Charles E. Keck, secretary. The following persons were appointed a Committee on Resolutions: A. C. Campbell, A. L. Williams, P. A. O'Boyle, P. A. Meixell, D. A. Fell, jr., J. Q. Creveling and J. A. Opp, who reported as follows:

The bar of Luzerne County condole with the family and kindred of James Buchanan Shaver, and desire to express their appreciation of the loss which his unexpected death has brought to them. His life has come to an untimely close. His career has ended. His life's work was but begun. The future to him was full of hope and promise. His life was one of labor and assiduity, and his career worthy of emulation by all young men who aim at eminence in the profession to which he belonged. He was a Christian gentleman in all his actions and dealings with his fellow man. As a member of the bar he rejoiced in the moral triumphs of justice, and was a sincere and conscientious advocate in all that those terms imply. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the members of the legal profession of this county, and particularly the younger members of the bar, who have enjoyed closer intercourse with the deceased, have lost a warm, faithful, personal friend, and the bar in general has been deprived of one who added to its character more than ordinary virtues.

And we hereby extend to the family, and especially to the widowed mother of the deceased that sympathy which may in some small degree sustain them in the hour of their sad affliction.

The verdict of his colleagues is that, though young, James Buchanan Shaver has not lived in vain.

That these resolutions be engrossed and presented to the mother of the deceased, and that a copy be furnished the newspaper for publication, and that the court be requested to direct the same to be spread upon the records.





# The Historical Record

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION

DEVOTED PRINCIPALLY TO

## The Early History of Wyoming Valley

AND CONTIGUOUS TERRITORY

WITH

## NOTES AND QUERIES

BIOGRAPHICAL, ANTIQUARIAN, GENEALOGICAL



EDITED BY F. C. JOHNSON, M. D.

Vol. 1]

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APRIL 1887

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[No. 8.

WILKES-BARRE, PA.

Press of The Wilkes-Barre Record

MDCCCLXXXVII





# The Historical Record.

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THE RECORD,  
WILKES-BARRE, PENN'A.





# The Historical Record

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## A BRAVE FRONTIER RANGER.

**Sketch of Peter Pence, Who Fought in the Revolutionary War and was Afterwards an Indian Fighter on the Susquehanna—Some of His Adventures.**

Peter Pence, whose name has so often been read in connection with that of Moses Van Campen, was a German, or rather a Pennsylvania Dutchman, of the days of seventy-six. It is believed that his proper name was Peter Bentz, which name at that time was frequently met in Lancaster County and that he came from there to Shamokin, and that it was changed to Pence, by the well known aptitude of the Pennsylvania Dutchman to cross the sounds of the letters b and p when speaking English, that in this way his name was written Pence.

In one of the Wyoming histories, in relating his and Moses Van Campen's adventures during a captivity with the Indians, Pence is described as a young boy. This is a mistake, as Peter was not only a man, but a very numerous one, both on the North and West Branches of the Susquehanna, as an Indian fighter and scout, or, as they were called in those days, a ranger. The first record we have of him is that in June, 1775, he enlisted in Captain John Lowdon's company, First Rifle Regiment, commanded by Col. William Thompson. This company camped at Sunbury, thence marched to Reading and Easton; thence through the northern part of the State of New Jersey, and crossed the Hudson River at New Windsor, a few miles northwest of West Point; thence through Hartford to Cambridge, where it arrived about the 8th of August. Pence's company was now fairly to the front and he had an opportunity of seeing the British troops whose batteries frowned down upon him from Bunker, Breed and Copp's hills, as also from their war ships in the harbor. The men of the regiment to which Pence belonged were thus described at the time in Thacher's *Military Journal*:

"Several companies of riflemen have arrived here from Pennsylvania and Maryland, a distance of from five hundred to seven hundred miles. They are remarkably stout and hardy men, many of them exceeding six feet in height. They are dressed in rifle shirts and round hats. These men are remarkable for the accuracy of their aim,

striking a mark with great certainty at two hundred yards' distance. At a review of a company of them, while on a quick advance they fired their balls into objects of seven inch diameter, at a distance of 250 yards. They are now stationed on our lines, and their shot have frequently proved fatal to British officers and and soldiers."

If this is a fair picture of the kind of boy Pence was in 1775 then he should have been something more than a boy, when in the month of April, 1780, he, Van Campen and Pike, with the two boys, Jonah Rogers and the boy Van Campen, Moses' little nephew, rose on their captors, near Tioga Point, and slew a portion of them, routed the remainder and captured all their guns and blankets. After which they made their way down the North Branch of the Susquehanna River, part of the way on foot and part on a raft, reaching Wyoming on the 4th day of April, 1780.

Here Pike and the boy, Jonah Rogers, left the party, as they were now near their homes. On the evening of the 5th Pence, Van Campen and his little nephew again took the river in a canoe and traveled all night, as at that time the Indians were on the river below Wyoming in force. They reached Fort Jenkins [now Briar Creek, Columbia County,] on the morning of the 6th of April, where they met Col. Kelly, with one hundred men, who had come across from the West Branch. Here it was that Moses VanCampen first met his mother and her younger children, who had escaped the massacre in which his father, brother and uncle met their fate just a week before. She had supposed him a victim of the slaughter. The next day Pence and VanCampen left Fort Jenkins in their canoes, and reached Fort Augusta, at Sunbury, where they were received in a regular frontier triumph. On the 9th following, Lieut. Col. Ludwig Wettner writes from Northumberland to the Board of War, stating that he encloses a deposition, or rather a copy of it, of one Peter Bens, who was lately taken prisoner by the Indians on the 29th of March last, and happily made his escape with three more of his fellow sufferers. Every effort has been made to discover this deposition or a copy of it, but without success. The statement of Moses VanCampen as to this particular event must therefore forever stand alone.





The next exploit in which we find Pence engaged is in the year 1781, when the Stock family were murdered by the Indians about two miles west from Selinus-grove. It was a most foul and brutal murder. The neighborhood and three experienced Indian fighters, Pence, Grove and Stroh, went in pursuit of the enemy. The speed with which the Indians traveled and the care required to keep on their trail and avoid an ambuscade, prevented the white men from overtaking them until they had got into the State of New York, somewhere on the headwaters of the North Branch, where they found the party encamped for the night on the side of a hill covered with fern. There the Indians fancied themselves safe. The distance they had traveled in safety warranted them in believing that they had not been pursued and they therefore kept no watch. Grove, leaving his gun at the foot of the hill, crept up through the ferns and observed that all their rifles were piled around a tree and that all but three or four were asleep. One of them, a large and powerful man, was narrating in high good humor, and with much impressive gesticulation, the attack on Stock's family and described the mauney in which Mrs. Stock defended herself. Grove lay quiet until the auditors fell asleep, and the orator, throwing his blanket over his head slept also. He then returned to his comrades, Pence and Stroh, informed them of what he had seen, and concerted the plan of attack, which was put in execution as soon as they thought the orator and his hearers fast asleep. They ascended the hill. Grove plied the tomahawk, while Pence and Stroh took possession of the rifles and fired among the sleepers. One of the first to awake was the orator, whom Grove dispatched with a single blow as he threw the blanket from his head and arose. How many they killed I do not know, but they brought home a number of scalps. The Indians, thinking they were attacked by a large party, fled in all directions and abandoned every thing. A white boy about 15 years of age, whom they had carried off, was rescued and brought back. The survivors having fled, they selected the best of the rifles, as many as they could conveniently carry, destroyed the remainder, and made their way to the Susquehanna, where they constructed a raft of logs and embarked. The river was so low that their descent was both tedious and slow, and their raft unfortunately striking a rock at Nanticoke Falls went to pieces, and they lost all their rifles and plunder. From that place they returned to Northumberland on foot, and arrived there in safety.

Meginness in his "Otzinachson," after speaking of Michael Grove as the Indian

killer, says, "There was another remarkable hunter and Indian killer in this valley named Peter Pence, of whom many wonderful stories are related. He is described by those who remember, as being a savage looking customer, and always went armed with his rifle, tomahawk and knife even years after peace was made. It is said that an account of his life was published some thirty years ago, and is remembered by some, but the most careful research has failed to develop it."

That Pence was not a boy, but a brave soldier of the Revolutionary War and served out a term, during which he bravely faced the cannon shot and shell of the British at Bunker Hill, and returned home to do duty on the Susquehanna frontier against the Indians and was captured and escaped with Moses VanCampen almost four years after an honorable discharge from the Continental service, must be conceded.

On the 10th of March, 1810, the Legislature of Pennsylvania passed an act granting an annuity to Peter Pence, in consideration of his services, of forty dollars per annum, which was to be paid annually in trust to John Forster of Lycoming County, and requiring the said John Forster annually to report to the Orphans' Court of Lycoming County, on oath or affirmation how or in what manner he executed the said trust in him confided. Peter Pence, it is said, died in Crawford Township, Clinton County, in the year 1829 and left a son named John. It would be very interesting to know at this late day, what evidence was filed at Harrisburg in support of the passage of the act granting the annuity. And also what report was made to the Orphans' Court by his trustee. And how, when and where he died and was buried. And who, if any of his living descendants are. C. F. HILL.

HAZLETON, April 15, 1887.

The Doylestown *Democrat* of March 8 contains the paper on Hon. Samuel D. Ingham, read before the Bucks County Historical Society by Rev. D. K. Turner. Mr. Ingham was the most illustrious citizen who ever lived in Bucks County, unless Nicholas Biddle, who lived at the same time and participated in the same events of the Jacksonian era, is regarded as a rival. Ingham, it will be remembered by the student of political history of the country, was the Secretary of the Treasury during old Hickory's administration, and with other members of the Cabinet dissolved their official relations of the administration on account of the Mrs. Eaton troubles. The paper is a valuable contribution, and will rescue from oblivion many of the incidents of Ingham's career.





## AN APRIL SNOW STORM.

One Which Old Probabilities was not Looking for—The Heaviest April Snow Fall in 30 Years.

People who had begun to make garden and who thought spring had come were surprised to witness a heavy snow storm April 18. It began in the silent hours of the early morning, continued about seven or eight hours, and by noon had laid a beautiful carpet of as many inches deep over the entire landscape. It lacked only a depression of temperature to be a genuine winter day. The thermometer was not as low as the freezing point. Pedestrians found the walking most difficult in the deep snow, while the roads speedily became muddy. The storm was hardly so severe as a noteworthy predecessor of 30 years ago, but it was phenomenal at this season of the year. The jingle of sleigh bells was heard for the first time in many weeks and there was fully seven or eight inches of snow on a level in the city. Outlying towns and hamlets report about a foot of snow on the level, at Laurel Run there being between 11 and 12 inches and at Lehman Centre the same. The storm began at about 5:30 a.m. and ceased for several hours about noon. At sundown it resumed, and continued until about midnight.

The storm on Saturday was central at Salt Lake City but crossed the Rocky Mountains and was central Monday morning in Louisville, Ky. All east of the Mississippi River was on Monday under the influence of the storm, which caused heavy rains at Louisville, Cincinnati, Nashville, Pittsburg, Knoxville and Indianapolis and lighter rains both east and west of these points, from Kansas to the Atlantic. In New York city it caused the fall of considerable snow. Snow also fell along the New England coast and in the lake region, but elsewhere the rain fall prevailed as far south as northern Georgia and Mississippi. Throughout Central New York and Pennsylvania from two to ten inches of snow is reported.

All the old settlers called to mind a similarly late April storm in 1857. James D. Laird was the first to fix the date, he finding a memorandum on his day book for April 20, 1857. He says the snow was up to the window sills of his Market Street shop, fully two feet deep.

Alderman Parsons, Richard Sharpe, Wesley Johnson, J. M. Nicholson and Charles Morgan, all had incidents to recall. The latter was on Long Island Sound on a steamer en route from New London to New York. The reckoning had become lost and the vessel had a difficult time making port.

Alderman Johnson recalled the crushing of Mr. Betterly's kitchen, which stood

about where Morgan's shoe factory now stands. Mr. Betterly was the father of the present Dr. Betterly.

Alderman Parsons had a very vivid recollection of the occurrence as his first wife was dying. He went to Pursel & Simon's livery for a rig with which to take a nurse home. The stable was crushed. Mr. Parsons says the snow remaining at the end of the storm was 11 inches.

Hon. L. D. Shoemaker's recollection of the depth of the snow was about a foot.

Ticket Agent Nicholson says the D. L. & W. trains yesterday did not suffer so badly this time as in April, 1857, the snow fall on Pocono being only five inches, while in 1857 it was as many feet.

E. H. Chase, E-q., recalls the storm as it affected the courts. The drifts were so bad, and the storm so heavy throughout the county, that court which had assembled, as it did Monday, for the spring term, was compelled to adjourn because of the absence of jurors. Stiles Williams, of Bear Creek, for a long time proprietor of the Prospect House on the Wilkes-Barre mountain, created a sensation by bringing in several jurymen from Bear Creek township and neighborhood, the party being pulled by four horses, with five outriders going on ahead to break the road. Mr. Chase was drawn as talesman in the same court, but was rejected as not having been a resident of the county for a sufficient length of time.

The RECORD OF THE TIMES for April 22, 1857, contains several references to the storm of that year, the date being April 20:

"The storm of Sunday night and Monday was more disagreeable than anything we recollect for years. Heaviest snow fall of the winter. The roof of the large shed at the livery stable of Pursel & Simons was broken down and several carriage tops crushed. Telegraph poles on Market and Main Streets broke down and tangled the wires in the street. A building on Main Street, occupied by Mr. Betterly was broken in and his daughter slightly injured. The falling mass rested on the table where she was eating, otherwise she would have been crushed to death. Mr. Totten's stable on Washington Street was crushed, also the long rope walk on the canal."

"The storm has interfered with our office work and we have been compelled to call in extra assistance in the way of steam for the power press."

"The weather for past week severe as November. Wednesday like winter. Saturday spring like, but only a weather breeder. Sunday raw, East wind, snow commenced afternoon, continuing nearly all Monday and part of Tuesday. We had a sled ride on Tuesday. Eighteen inches must have fallen. The Lackawanna & Western trains were





stopped on Monday. Snow reported several feet deep in places."

"The snow blocked up the road on the Kingston mountain so that it was impossible to get the mails through to Northmoreland. The mail carrier reports from five to six feet of unbroken snow. The team was stuck fast and men had to be employed to shovel them out, after which further progress was given up."

A similar storm was reported from Pottsville and Reading.

The same paper records late storms in previous years. May 2, 1841, the week past been almost one continued storm—cold, snow, wet. April 20, 1843, last snow of winter disappeared. June 1, 1843, sharp frost killed beans and apple crop. Other crops not injured. The editor remarks: "So there is hope. Seed time and harvest shall not fail, though our variable climate continue variable. And spring, all smiles, all tears, remains the battle ground between winter and summer for the mastery."

#### OLD TIME RAILROADING.

**Ex-Supt. Bound's Experience on the Pocono in the Heavy Snow Storm of April, 1857—The Locomotives Nearly Buried.**

The RECORD has already reported Ticket Agent J. M. Nicholson as saying the snow was 5 feet deep on the Pocono Mountain in April storm 30 years ago. Mr. Nicholson, feeling that his story was received with a little discredit wrote to Ex-Supt. Bound of the L. & B. R.R., who was on the Pocono at the time and whose reply will be read with general interest:

APRIL 19—J. M. NICHOLSON, KINGSTON—DEAR SIR: In April 1857, I was conductor of coal train, on Southern Division, D. L. & W. R.R. At about 4 am. on April 20, 1857, I left Scranton for New Hampton Junction, with engine Vermont, (camel-back,) and David Hippenhamer engineer. We started with our usual train. (22 small cars,) but the snow being about eight inches deep and very heavy, we were compelled to back down and switch six cars. At Greenville we switched ten more; at Moscow we switched the remainder of our cars, and went on with engine and caboose. Were stalled several times between Moscow and Lehigh. In 1857 the Pocono Tunnel was not completed, and we ran around it, and over short trestle. At east end of this trestle we found Puterbaugh, conductor, Mark Barnwell, engineer, with engine "Susquehanna" off the track. Puterbaugh had left Scranton a few moments ahead of us with a freight train, and I think had switched nearly or quite all of his cars before leaving Moscow. If I re-

member aright it was about 8 am., when we overtook Puterbaugh, and it took us until 8 pm. to get the "Susquehanna" off the track, and by this time the snow was up to my armpits on the level. You do not exaggerate when you say the snow was five feet deep on level at Pocono in April 1857. I was there. After we got engine on track, we coupled the two engines together, got up full head of steam, and took a run over the embankment near Paradise water tank, (wind had blown snow off this bank,) for Paradise switch, and if ever engine did their duty, this was the time. We just cleared main track, when we stalled, and we were happy, for we had expected to stall before clearing main track. And think of flagmen standing out in that storm for two days and two nights. On Paradise switch we found Gurnsey, conductor, Jim Harvey, engineer, with engine "Niagara" attached to west bound freight. We all (three crews) went to section house (Barlow's) and got our suppers. Next morning we got our breakfast at same place and ate up all they had except enough to last his family for two days. I took Gurnsey's way bills, looked them over and found car containing a barrel of crackers and a box of cheese, we were all right now for grub; but when could we get from Paradise to Scranton, was the question.

On April 22, at about 4 pm., we were made happy by the arrival of a passenger train from the west. Supt. Brisbin was on it and stated to us that he, with all the men and engines at his command, had been working since morning of 20th to get passenger train from Scranton over Pocono, and said to us, "Boys, the snow is very deep in cut west of Tobyhanna. It is to tops of passenger cars; you can go to Scranton to-night if you think you can get your engines there safe. I would prefer you would wait until morning." And his train started for New Hampton Junction. Soon after we held council of war and concluded to go to Scranton that night, which we did, arriving there about 9 pm. all right. I should have added that when we stalled in Paradise switch the snow was level with the head light on the "Susquehanna" and the foot boards alongside of "Vermont's" boiler. We had no injectors at that time and pumped water into our engines by slipping the drivers; this was the only way we could keep them alive, as they could not be moved until we shoveled them out on 22nd.

DAVID T. BOUND.

#### April Thirty-three Years Ago.

[Williamsport Gazette and Bulletin.]

The following is an extract from John A. Otto's diary in 1854, Mr. Otto residing at that time in Schuylkill County: "April 14th,





Good Friday—snow storm; April 15th, rain and snow; 16th, Easter, very cold; 17th, snow fifteen inches deep; found a half bushel dead birds in an old furnace stack."

#### Another Spring Snow Storm.

EDITOR RECORD: As our snow storm of April 18 has called forth numerous reminiscences concerning late spring snows from some of the "oldest inhabitants," permit me to mention one of an earlier date and of still more untimely occurrence. I think it was in the year 1833, or perhaps in 1834. I was then a small boy, and we, that is myself and one or two more of my brothers, were at work on the old home farm at Laurel Run on the 15th of May, planting corn in a field now covered by 50 feet or more of coal culm. The morning was fair, but towards noon it became so cold, that I only clad as we were, we were obliged to leave off work and betake ourselves to the old fashioned chimney corner with its bright wood fire kindled on the hearth. Snow commenced falling early in the evening, and next morning the ground was covered with four or five inches. Peach and plum trees were in full bloom, and their branches were drooping with the weight of snow and hanging to the clusters of blossom, which in the case of the plum trees at least, rivaled the whiteness of the untimely snow with which they were weighted down. I do not remember what effect this had on the fruitage but think it was not seriously damaged. W. J.

#### Another Untimely Snow Storm

Now that the heavy snow storm of April 18 is recalling other unseasonable storms the following item will be of interest, it being copied from the manuscript diary of Jacob J. Dennis, father of Capt. James P. Dennis:

"Snow fell on the 4th day of May, 1812, at Wilkes-Barre, nearly all day. Peach trees were in blossoms and apple trees: some gardens were made. The two mountains were covered with snow, and on Wilkes-Barre Mountain more than a foot deep."

#### Two Valuable Relics.

Dr. W. H. Sharp, of Nanticoke, has presented the Historical Society with two valuable relics. One is an iron hatchet or tomahawk, blade six inches long, 2½ inches along cutting edge. It was found on the premises of Asa Cook in Pike Swamp, near the cabin of Abram Pike, the celebrated Indian killer. The other is an aboriginal implement or ornament of stone, 4½ inches long, 1½ inches wide and having two conical shaped holes bored through near the rounded ends. It was found on the mountain in Hunlock Township by C. H. Sharp.

#### A Poem by Mrs. Sigourney.

The following poem is handed the RECORD by Capt. James P. Dennis. It appeared first in the Hartford (Conn.) *Courant*, and is undoubtedly from the pen of the distinguished poet, Mrs. Lydia Huntley Sigourney. She was born in Norwich, Conn., 1791, and in 1819 was married to Charles S. Sigourney, of Hartford. Her writings contain frequent references to the aboriginal inhabitants of America and to her native State. Naturally Wyoming, with its tragic story and its Connecticut associations, occupied a place in her writings. The present poem, which was an appeal for the building of a monument over the bones of the hero dead at Wyoming, is not given in her published writings. Mrs. Sigourney died in Hartford in 1865.

#### THE WYOMING MONUMENT.

Men of this happy land, if ye would have  
That valor flourish, which did guard your homes  
From foreign domination—haste to pay  
Due honor to the dead, who made their breast  
A shield against the foe, and in the cause  
Of holy liberty, lay down to die,  
—Flow'd not their blood from the same glorious  
source  
That fill'd your own? Why should they longer  
sleep  
In cold oblivion's tomb?

Their gather'd bones  
Are where the death-shaft fell, and the green  
turf  
Of fair Wyoming's vale hath done its best  
To deck their sepulchre. Yea, Spring hath  
come—  
Weeping like Rizpah for her slaughter'd sons,  
And spread a mantle o'er them—and the flowers  
That Summer brings, have budded there and  
died  
These many lustrums.

Friends and countrymen—  
Plant ye a stone upon that hallow'd mound,  
And from its grave tablet teach your sons—  
And when its pillar'd height goes up toward  
heaven,  
Tell them from whence was drawn that fortitude  
Which sav'd their land. Then if you see a tear  
Upon the bright cheeks of your listening boy,  
Hasten with a precious seed—and charge him  
there  
To love his country and to fear his God

—L. H. S.

Hartford, Conn. May 28, 1841.

#### Capt. John Fries, of Bucks.

EDITOR RECORD: Will not some contributor furnish a history of Capt. John Fries, of Bucks County, Pa., who in 1799 made a raid into Bethlehem, and liberated a number of prisoners, was tried for high treason and sentenced to death, and afterward pardoned by President John Adams. Will not some of our Northampton or Bucks County local historians write him up, his ancestry and descendants, etc. H.





## MR. YARINGTON'S REMINISCENCES.

**How His Father's Blacksmith Shop Looked, and How Nails and Farm Tools Were Made 65 Years Ago—Launch of the War Ship, "Luzerne."**

**EDITOR RECORD:** On the last day of February, 1825, I left my home in Wilkes-Barre and walked to Dundaff. I had previously made a contract with Col. Gould Phinny to work a year for him at my trade, (blacksmith.) I went up the turnpike from Wilkes-Barre, through Pittston to Hyde Park, and while there I looked over to Capouse (now Scranton,) and I saw the residence of Maj. Ebenezer Slocum and eight or ten tenant houses in which his work-hands resided, and there were apparently ten or twelve acres of cleared land where Scranton now is. Maj. Slocum had a forge there, and manufactured what was called bloomer irons and soon after the war of 1812 I used to go up with my father to purchase iron of Mr. Slocum, my father being a blacksmith. Where Scranton now is, was then a dense wilderness with the exception of the few acres around his house. I went on up the turnpike through Greenfield, and arrived at the Dundaff Hotel about sundown. There I found an old Wilkes-Barre friend and his family with whom I was acquainted, Archippus Parrish, whose horses I had shod from 1818 to 1822, at which time he moved with his family to Dundaff. He ran the hotel there a number of years and then moved back to Wilkes-Barre. I felt perfectly at home and boarded with the family a year, and I can positively say that it was one of the happiest years of my life.

I will now go back a few years with the occurrences of my boyhood at Wilkes-Barre. When I was ten years old (1813) my father carried on the blacksmith business. In his shop were three fires. At that time there were no hardware stores in Wilkes-Barre and no edge tools could be found in either of the four or five stores there, except now and then an old fashioned one-bladed Barlow knife might be found at a huge price. Such an article as a cast iron plough or a cut nail was not known, but about the close of the war a man by the name of Francis McShane started a cut nail machine, a very simple affair indeed, but himself and his helper, (Shepard Marble, a Wilkes-Barre young man) could cut and head about 20 pounds daily; this caused a great excitement in town, hundreds of people from town and county came to see the nail factory. The price of wrought iron came down from 20 and 25 cents a pound to the price of twelve and a half cents. Cut nails were sold at ten cents. The three fires in my father's shop were used as follows: First, at his fire

were made all the edge tools, including cradle and grass scythes, chopping axes and various kinds of carpenters' tools. At another fire nothing but the various kinds of wrought iron nails were made, and the third fire was kept busy at the various kinds of customers' work as it was called for.

During the war of 1812 the great ship Luzerne was built on the river bank in front of John W. Robinson's stone house. I saw the launch. A thousand or more people were present. The war spirit was rampant at that time, and the people of our town expected that the noble Luzerne was going to assist in bringing the "Flag of Great Britain" down. A few days after the launch a sufficient flood arose and the ship was manned and started down the river towards the ocean, but in passing the Falls of Canawaga, she ran on to the rocks and lay there till the ice in the river broke up the next spring, when she was totally destroyed.

John P. Arndt was one of the stockholders—probably the largest one—in the vessel. Several others, including my father, had from three to five hundred dollars of the stock. There was great excitement in Luzerne County about those days. The war spirit prevailed to a great extent. There were two recruiting stations at Wilkes-Barre and the recruiting officers were very busy for one or two years. Business of every description was brisk, and all kinds of provisions were high—wheat two dollars and fifty cents per bushel; corn one dollar and twenty-five cents; pork eighteen to twenty dollars a barrel, and everything else in the line of provisions proportionally high.

D. YARINGTON.

### POSTAGE FIFTY YEARS AGO.

**Now We Send One Ounce Anywhere in the United States for Two Cents.**

Fifty years ago the rates of postage in the United States were six cents for a letter, if not carried over 30 miles, 10 cents, if carried over 30 miles and not over 80 miles, 12½ cents if over 80 and not over 150 miles, 18½ cents between 150 and 400 miles, and 25 cents for any distance over 400 miles. Double letters, or letters composed of two pieces of paper, were double these rates. Every distinct piece of paper, if written on, was liable to single-rate letter postage. Envelopes were then unknown in this country. If used, they would have subjected letters to double postage. The fourth page of the letter sheet was left vacant, and the letter was so folded as to bring a part of this page on the outside of the letter and thus furnish a place for the superscription or address.





## AFTER THE BATTLE.

## Some Old Accounts for Supplies Furnished the Soldiers at Westmoreland—Some Blackman Historical Data.

Following are some extracts from an old pocket account-book of Elisha Blackman, Sr., of Wilkes-Barre (Westmoreland) in 1778, the same now being in my possession:

"Account agains William Stuard and the foragemaster at Westmore Land.	
"To one note of hand.....	£13 6 0
"To one order of the forage-master.....	12 0 0
"Ots to the foragemaster.....	6 6 0
"To corn .....	14 8 0
"To hay .....	10 10 0
	£56 10 0"

Then again afterwards the same matter as follows:

"Westmore Land, November ye 25, 1778.	
"Nots and orders that I left with Mr. Daniel Downin.	
"To one not agains William Stnerd for pork.....	£13 6 0
"One order for potatoes.....	12 0 0
"Ots for the arme.....	6 6 0
"Corn for the arme.....	14 8 0
"Hay for the arme.....	10 10 0
	£56 10 0"

This being Connecticut currency, £s. to the dollar would, in United States money, amount to \$188 33 $\frac{1}{4}$ .

This Elisha Blackman was the lieutenant of the old men, the "Reformadoes," that were in possession of the Wilkes-Barre fort, or stockade, on the day of the massacre at Wyoming, July 3, 1778. On the next day, the 4th, after the women and children, and all the other old men in Wilkes-Barre and the neighborhood had fled across the mountain toward Stroudsburg, he left the fort about 4 o'clock in the afternoon with his son, Elisha Blackman, Jr.—who had been in the battle at Wyoming the day before and had escaped—and fled down the river, and across the country by the Wapwallopen Creek to Stroudsburg. Elisha, Jr., came back to Wilkes-Barre early in August with Capt. Spalding's remnant of the two companies of the Wyoming or Westmoreland soldiers that had been in Washington's army. After saving such of the crops of his father's farm and others as he could and helping to bury the dead at Wyoming he enlisted in Washington's army and served to the end of the war—1783.

The old gentleman, Elisha, Sr., went on to Connecticut with his family, which he had found at Stroudsburg, but returned to Wilkes-Barre the same year, 1778, and dis-

posed of his crops, or some of them, to the government for the soldiers stationed at Wilkes-Barre and the neighborhood. The potatoes and oats, corn and hay, or grass, could not be wholly destroyed by the Indians. But how could this pork have been saved? Was it buried in the ground? Young Elisha's mother had buried his clothing to keep the Indians from getting it, before she, with the rest of the children, two boys, 13 and 16, and two girls older than these, fled to the mountain, and young Elisha never saw her after the massacre until the war ended in 1783. On his discharge from the army he went to Connecticut, not so very far from Newberg, where the army was disbanded, and when he returned to Wilkes-Barre in 1786 his buried clothes were all rotten. (His father returned to Wilkes-Barre to reside in 1787.) But why had not his mother told his father where they were buried, so that when he was here in 1778 he might have dug them up and saved them? It seems that some of the people had forethought and courage enough, the night and day after the battle and massacre, to bury their most valuable property that could not be carried away on their backs across the mountains and through the woods and the great swamp. There were no roads nor scarcely paths in that direction, for that was toward Pennsylvania and not New England settlements. H. B. PLUMB.

## Jones Family of Bethlehem.

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. H. Jones went to Bethlehem April 18 to attend the golden wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Jones. There was a happy family reunion. The house wherein the wedding took place occupied the site of the old homestead built by John Jones, who bought the whole tract lying between Bethlehem and Freemansburg 150 years ago. On this farm they lived 33 years, and here their eleven children were born, only five of whom are now living. The grandchild last born—a son of Mr. and Mrs. Geo. H. Jones—was baptized on Monday evening, in the presence of the assembled family, by Rev. Robert W. Jones, Earl Andre was the baptismal name. The history and lineage of the Jones family of Bethlehem Township was traced and embodied in an article published in the *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* for 1880, by Prof. Joseph Henry Dubbs, D. D., of Lancaster, Pa., whose grandmother was a Jones. Griffith Jones, the first of the line, was born in Wales, and died in Montgomery County, Pa., in 1720. His son, John, was the first of the family in this vicinity, and the grandchildren of Mr. and Mrs. George Jones are the seventh generation.





## Meteoric Shower of 1833.

In response to the RECORD's inquiry if any of its readers could describe the meteoric shower of 1833, A. G. Stillwell sends the following reminiscence:

The writer was twenty years of age at that date, Nov. 12, 1833, a resident of Susquehanna County. The day previous, preparations were being made by his father and self to start early for Philadelphia. About 3 a.m. we were astir to feed and hitch up dobbin, it was before the days of railroads. Upon looking out doors a sight new and dazzling was presented. In the East, West, North and South appeared, filling the air by the millions softly and quietly falling towards the earth, particles of fire like snow-flakes; but none of them by very close examination could be seen to touch the earth. None fell at the feet; but like the foot of the rain-bow, when approached receded. The morning was cool and very pleasant weather followed into October. The recollection of the phenomenon is very vivid, but what it was I do not know; probably it was gas, having the appearance of fire and yet without heat. Singular as it may appear, no effort made to secure or touch the fire with the hand was successful. When within a few feet of the earth it seemed to dissolve.

## HON. H. B. PLUMB'S RECOLLECTION.

The author of the History of Hanover Township thus writes:

In the RECORD of April 27 you ask who among your readers can recall the wonderful meteoric display of Nov. 12, 1833. I, for one, can recall it.

On the morning of the 13th, about 4 o'clock, my mother awoke me and had me get up and go to the door with her. There she told me to look up at the sky. I looked up, facing the south. I probably looked in every direction from the door toward the south, but I have a recollection only of looking at the sky towards the south. The sky was all brightly lighted up by the flashing shooting stars. According to my recollection they all shot towards the west. The tails were not quite as long, according to my recollection, as that of an ordinary shooting star, but they were constantly, incessantly flashing, wherever I looked, all going the same way—the same direction—towards the west. There was not in any direction, from any flashing star a vacant space, without any shooting star in it, as wide or great as two diameters of the full moon. The tails seem to me to have been as long as five or six diameters of the full moon. My mother told me to remember that I was four years old that day. That day was my birthday. I was too young to be frightened at it, and I have just asked my mother about it, and she was not frightened, because her father was

there looking at them, and he did not seem afraid and so she wasn't. She says she did not know but he was used to such sights, and had seen them often before, and knew all about it. The next day, that is the same day after it got light, she went to Wilkes-Barre, and there was great excitement there. The Methodists had held prayers during the night, she learned, and some had prayed all night.

See also Plumb's history of Hanover, page 292. H. B. PLUMB.

## AS SEEN AT WILLIAMSPORT.

Col. Meginness' *Historical Journal*, published at Williamsport, gives the following reminiscence of an eye-witness:

"A single glance from the window convinced us that either the stars were falling or that some strange phenomenon was taking place. The air seemed to be filled with falling fire, each separate particle of which was apparently as large as the big flakes of snow that sometimes fall on a soft day in winter. The falling fire, or whatever it was, made it as light as when the full moon is shining on a clear night, and looking far up towards the sky we could fix our eyes upon a single one of the falling meteors and trace it until it almost reached the ground, upon which none of them could be seen to alight. Some of the meteors assumed fantastic shapes and our fears were terrible. When we finally calmed ourselves enough to reason together, we found that by fixing our gaze upon the real stars, that were shining brightly in the heavens, we could see that they were not falling. This allayed our fears, and from the moment that discovery was made, we feasted our eyes upon the falling meteors until daylight shut them from our view. But few of our neighbors witnessed the strange sight, and those who did not were loth to believe the occurrence as we related it to be real. We, however, were pleased to know, when we saw the newspapers, that the singular phenomenon had been witnessed all over the world, and that we had seen the wonderful sight of that remarkable night of November 12, 1833."

By the death of Col. James Boone, of Lancaster, Montgomery County now claims that she has living within her limits the oldest Odd Fellow in Pennsylvania, in the person of Geo. F. Schaeff, who was initiated early in March, 1828, in Philadelphia. He is now living at Blue Bell, in robust health, and is a member of Centre Square Lodge, No. 204.—*Norristown Herald*.

Major W. P. Elliott, an account of whom appeared in the *March Historical Record* as being the oldest printer in the United States, died at Lewiston, April 2, 1887, aged 94.





## A Wildcat Reminiscence.

A RECORDED man succeeded the other day in corraling Councilman S. H. Lynch at a moment when he was not absorbed in municipal affairs and asked him for some particulars as to an adventure he had many years ago with a wildcat. Mr. Lynch replied that it would give him pleasure to have the story embalmed in the RECORD and here is how he told it:

In the winter of 1834 two boys were standing on the banks of the Susquehanna at Wilkes-Barre, near what was then the residence of Samuel Raub. One of the boys lived in the house which stood about where W. L. Conyngham's house now stands. The river was covered with ice, which had been crushed by a recent rise in the river and had again frozen up. As they were gazing at the ice they heard a voice from the opposite bank calling "Bring over your dogs, bring over your dogs." There were two dogs attending upon the lads, one called "Mingo" and the other "Major," which had doubtless been seen by the opposite party. The two boys lived but to obey, and without considering the risk of the uncertain ice they immediately plunged down the bank, crossed the river and were received by a hunter with a rifle over his shoulder, who told them that he had chased a wildcat from Ross Hill and had lost it in the trees and bushes at the bend of the river. Here was something worth coming over the ice for; and they, with the dogs, began to beat up the bush, and were not long in starting the cat. Backwards and forwards they tramped, throwing clubs and stones at the animal whenever he appeared in sight, expecting he would tire, but he was too sharp for that. After working through the weeds for an hour or more, they lost track of the critter, and while searching in the trees for him a rifle crack rang out on the air some distance west of their position, and rushing forward, they soon got sight of the hunter, and there at the foot of a tree lay the largest kind of a wildcat. The dogs rushed in, but more speedily rushed out, as the cat, being wounded used his claws with terrible effect, and no urging could induce them to make another charge, and it required another shot through the head before the game was up. The hunter shouldered his rifle and the cat and brought it over to town, and it was said to be the largest wildcat ever seen hereabouts. The hunter was John Myers, father of Lawrence Myers, of this city. One of the boys was John Raub, who died a short time since in Virginia, and the other boy was Mr. Lynch himself.

## The Half Has Not Been Told.

EDITOR RECORD: Here is a little piece of history as related to me by J. T. Bennett in a recent letter:

"In the year 1823 and 1829, my father had a contract on the canal below the dam across the river at Nanticoke Falls. I was there with him. They were Yankees and Dutch on that section, and they were all Irish below and above. They broke out like wild tigers and came on with clubs and crow-bars and everything they could get in their hands that would kill a man. My father went to see what was the matter, and they ran after him and he went down a bank twelve feet, and I saw these Irishmen break a rail in two just as his head passed the bank and it was only about four inches off. I ran up the canal and I saw a lot coming towards me and then I ran to the river. It was very high at that time, I saw that it was my only chance for my life and in I went and started for the other side, but it so happened that there had been a small boat there and some had got into it and started to cross the river. I was about a quarter of a mile off and I went to them. My father was in the boat and when we got up to Col. Washington Lee's, we found a man going to town (Wilkes-Barre). His name was Jurdon Womelsdorf. My father sent a letter by him to the sheriff and by midnight there was a good party from town down there. I stopped all night at my uncle's, Thomas Bennett, [he kept a tavern or hotel in Nanticoke]. They killed David Ehrett right by the place where my father was and I ran up the river and swam down and out.—And the half has not been told yet."

P

## Death of Mrs. Livingston.

At 1 o'clock Monday, April 4, Mrs. Isaac Livingston, wife of our well known merchant, died at her residence, 84 Public Square, after a lengthy illness. She was born in Bavaria July 9, 1829, and came to this city when a young woman. Her first husband was Louis Reese, who was shot and killed on the Kingston flats. Thirty-two years ago she married Mr. Livingston and their life together was a happy and prosperous one. She leaves one child by her first marriage, Sarah, wife of A. Reese, of Plymouth. Two sons, Moses and Harry, and three daughters, Mamie, Gussie and Jennie, survive from her second marriage.

For more than 20 years she has suffered from a liver affection that more than once threatened to terminate her life, but medical skill succeeded in averting the crisis. For the past few months, however, it had become evident that the end was not far off.





## Fifty Years of Married Life.

A very pleasant gathering assembled Wednesday, May 4, at the residence of William S. Wells, on River Street, the occasion being the fiftieth anniversary of the marriage of the host and hostess, which took place in Kingston May 4, 1837. Mr. Wells had recently come to the valley from Massachusetts, Miss Jackson, his bride, being of English parentage. Besides the 21 children and grandchildren, gathered from Mehoopany, Carbon-dale and this city, old friends and relatives of the family to the number of 50 or more were present to do honor to the interesting event. Miss Edith, daughter of Charles D. Wells, in a neat little speech presented her grandmother with a handsome gold ring. Rev. W. W. Loomis made some happy remarks, recounting his personal knowledge of the long and happy married life of the parties, in which he stated that statistics show that not more than one couple in every thirteen thousand who enter upon the marriage relation ever live to see the fiftieth anniversary of that, the most important event in their lives. He reminded them that in the natural course of events they must be now nearing the end of the journey they had for so long traveled in friendly company, reminding them that though they may be parted here for a season, yet their souls will soon be joined in happy union in that heaven to which we are all hastening, unless the great gulph shall divide us from those we love. In the name, and on behalf of the son and daughters, he then presented Mr. Wells with a valuable gold watch, which was received by Mr. Wells, who called upon Rev. Tuttle to make the response in the name of the recipients, which he did in a very happy manner and at some length.

This portion of the ceremonies being now over, a bountiful repast was spread before the guests, to which they did ample justice, a band of music on the front porch enlivening the scene by discoursing some sweet airs during supper. Besides the presents enumerated the handsome parlors were newly furnished with a set of handsome furniture, a present from the son and daughters and their husbands present.

The bride and groom of 50 years ago were in excellent health and spirits; the bride looking bright and cheery, the groom dignified and patriarchal. Long may they live to enjoy the peace and quiet of their lengthened years, the comforts of home and the society of their children and grandchildren.

## Wilkes-Barre in 1827.

WILKES-BARRE, March 28, 1887.—EDITOR RECORD: Your notice in this morning's paper of it being 25 years since Mr. H. H. Derr arrived in Wilkes-Barre, and the remarks as to increase in population, modes of travel, etc., reminds me that it is just 60 years since I walked down the mountain and into Wilkes-Barre. My father bought a "Jersey wagon" (covered) and two horses in Philadelphia to convey his family to Wyoming Valley, (having there engaged with Mr. Thomas Dow to cultivate his farm "on shares"). We left Philadelphia on Thursday afternoon, reached Heller's tavern at the Wind Gap, Blue Mountain, on Saturday evening—rested over Sunday—resumed our journey on Monday, and on Tuesday afternoon arrived in Wilkes-Barre, April 1, 1827 and took possession of the farm. The house (of logs) was about 1½ miles from the court house, on what is now Hazle Avenue, then Lowrytown Road; this house and another small log house at the corner of Main and Blackman Streets, were the only dwellings on the place. I presume there are now living on the same property, more inhabitants than there were at that time in the borough of Wilkes-Barre. The only house between our house and the homestead of General W. M. Ross, on Main Street, was Judge Rhone's (then McCarragher's) and a small house and distillery on Dana lot, where a small stream crosses the road.

RICHARD SHARPE.

A short time ago you published a communication in reference to the cold, wet summer of 1816 and asked if any other of your readers could furnish items in relation thereto. I well remember going with my father into the harvest field and seeing him untie the sheaves of wheat and spreading them out to dry, and this on account of frequent showers. The process had to be repeated before the grain could be housed or stacked. Owing to the wet weather a large amount of the grain sprouted, and I remember the bread made from it tasted as though sweetened with sugar.

R. S.

What is believed to be the original charter of Philadelphia, made in 1691, has been discovered among some old papers of Colonel Alexander Biddle. This document antedates by ten years, the charter of 1701, which is in the museum of Independence Hall.

"A History of the Region of Pennsylvania North of the Ohio and West of the Allegheny River, of the Indian Purchases and of the Running of the Southern, Northern and Western State Boundaries," is the title of a work edited by Hon. Daniel Agnew.





## Etymology of "Susquehanna."

Hockewelder, in his "Indian Names of Rivers, Creeks and other Noted Places in Pennsylvania, together with their meaning, &c., (original MS., Hist. Soc. Pa.), states: "The Indian, (Lenape) distinguish the River which we call Susquehanna thus: The North Branch they call *M'chucwamisipi*, or to shorten it *M'chuewormink*, from which we have called it Wyoming. The word implies: *the River on which are extensive clear Flats*. The Six Nations, according to Pylæus [Moravian missionary] call it *Gahonta*, which had the same meaning.

"The West Branch they call *Quenischachachekanne*, but to shorten it they say *Quenischachekki*. The word implies: *the River which has the long reaches or straight courses in it*.

"From the forks, where now the town Northumberland stands, *downwards*, they have a name (this word I have lost) which implies: *the Great Bay River*. The word *Susquehanna*, properly *Sisuehanna*, from *Sisku* for *mud*, and *hanne*, a *stream*, was probably at an early time of the settling of this country, overheard by some white person while the Indians were at the time of a flood or freshet remarking: *Juh! Achsis quehanna* or *Sisuehanna* which is: *how muddy the stream is*, and therefore taken as the proper name of the River. Any stream that has become muddy, will at the time it is so, be called *Sisuehanna*."—*Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* for April.

## An Interesting Historical Work.

Daniel Kulp Cassel, of 4133 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia, has secured the copyright of a work upon which he has been engaged for several years past, embracing the history of the Mennonites. The work is of more than local interest, for while it gives a very complete and authentic genealogical record of the early settlers, it likewise embraces within its pages, facts gleaned from all parts of the world bearing upon the history of this Christian sect. The work will, when published, a few months hence, be a volume of about three hundred pages. Among the topics treated might be mentioned the following: Baptism in the early centuries; the Mennonite meetings in Germantown from 1683 down; the names of the subscribers to the building of the first Mennonite Church in 1708, and also those who subscribed for the rebuilding of the edifice in 1770; sketches of old meeting houses; history of the Mennonites of Virginia, Missouri and adjacent States and Territories, and genealogical matters connected with many of the families of Germantown and vicinity, including the Kolbs. (now Kulp) Rittenhouses, Keyzers, Cassels and

others. While the copy is almost ready for the printers' hands, Mr. Cassel is still prepared to add any additional matter of an appropriate character, and any person in the possession of information bearing on the subject is cordially invited to correspond with him.—*Nicetown Signal*.

Mr. Cassel, the author of the above stated work, is a relative of Geo. B. Kulp, Esq., of this city.

## Could Not Read His Own Writing.

NIAGARA FALLS, April 14, 1887.—EDITOR RECORD: I am reminded by the wrapper enclosing the RECORD this morning, that my subscription for the year, expires May 1st, and as I desire to have it continued, I write thus early that not a day may be lost of the satisfaction I take in perusing its contents. I am always interested in everything relating in the Valley of Wyoming, the home of my youth. By this last sentence, I am forcibly reminded that on Saturday last, (the 9th,) I passed my 75th anniversary, well and active as a boy. At my office regularly and ready at all times to attend to business affairs as they may be presented from day to day, for action. I am reminded of an anecdote of many years ago during the life time of Judge Dyer, the borough justice of Wilkes Barre, a man well known there in his day, and noted for his unintelligible hand writing. He once put a warrant in the hands of "old Michael," the then high constable of the borough, for the arrest of a man for some trivial offence. The man was brought before the justice, and the attorney for the defendant took the warrant from the constable, but could not read it, and handed it over to the judge to interpret it, but he soon handed it back saying, "If you expect me to read my own hand writing you must let me see it before it gets cold," much to the amusement of those present. And I find even in this age of progress, some of the letters received require the shrewdness of two or three Philadelphia lawyers to interpret them, and should impress upon all letter writers and correspondents the importance of writing a plain hand. S. PETTEBONE.

The *Historical Record* is on file in the library of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, as are also the Proceedings and Collections of the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society.

Dr. B. H. Throop's historical notes, which have been running in the *Scranton Argus* for some weeks have been neatly reprinted in pamphlet form for the Lackawanna Institute of History and Science.





### The West Branch Magazine.

The initial number of the *Historical Journal*, a monthly record devoted principally to preserving the local history in the West Branch Valley of the Susquehanna and Northeastern Pennsylvania in general, has made its appearance. It comprises 32 pages, is edited by John F. Meginness, of the *Williamsport Gazette and Bulletin*. Some 30 years ago Mr. Meginness wrote a history of the West Branch region under the title of "Otzinachson." He now contemplates a new edition, but has a large amount of material that is more suited to a magazine than to a local history, consequently he has undertaken the publication in question. It will be made up of fragments of history that would otherwise be lost—reminiscences of pioneers, Indian remains, necrology, longevity, and a host of other interesting features. Among the contained matter are articles on Rev. John Bryson, a pioneer Presbyterian divine, stature of Revolutionary soldiers, meteoric shower of 1833, early Methodism in Centre County, latitude of Wilkes-Barre (reprinted from the *Record*) and numerous other articles and short items of statistics and manufactures also receive some interesting attention. The subscription price is \$2 per annum.

### An Instance of Indian Prohibition.

Hon. John Blair Linn, of Bellefonte, says in the *Historical Journal* that the country about the mouth of Lycoming Creek was in 1753 the domain of French Margaret, a Canadian, and niece of Madame Montour. Williamsport now occupies the site of her village, which was noted on Scull's map of 1759 as "French Margaret's Town." She was visited in 1753 by J. Martin Mack, the well known Moravian missionary among the Indians, who writes thus in his journal:

In the course of conversation, for she was very communicative, she stated that her son and son-in-law had been killed in the winter while on a maraud against the Creeks. On asking permission to deposit our packs with her, until our return from the Delaware town of Quenischachschoheny, (Linden,) "Oh," said she, "the Indians there have been drinking hard the past week, and you will likely find them all drunk!" "On our return she gave us a refreshing draught of milk and entertained us with the family news, speaking of Andrew and of her husband, Peter Quebec, who she said had not drank rum within six years. She has prohibited its use in her town, and yet although she has initiated other reformatory measures within her little realm, she enjoys the respect and confidence of her subjects.

### Where the Levan Letter Came From.

In the last issue of the *Record* appeared two hitherto unpublished letters, one of them relative to the provisioning of Fort Allen (now Allentown) '131 years ago, the writer being Jacob Levan. We are informed by Rev. F. K. Levan, of this city, who is a diligent student of the early history of Northeastern Pennsylvania, that the Mr. Levan who wrote the letter is the ancestor of the Maxatawny branch of the family. The original letter was in the possession of the late Mr. Mickley, the well known Philadelphia antiquarian, and probably has passed into the possession of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. The letter published in the *Record* is a free translation from the original German, made for our contributor, Mr. C. F. Hill, by Rev. Mr. Levan, who had possession of a verbatim copy of the letter, made by Mr. Mickley himself. The copy is in the possession of Mr. Levan. He laid great store by the original and offered Mr. Mickley a handsome amount for it, but its possessor declined to part with it. We would be pleased to learn the exact whereabouts of the original.

Scheussel's large canvass, "Zeisberger Preaching to the Indians," painted in 1858, at the solicitation of John Jordan, Jr., and Mr. Skirving, of Philadelphia, and Mr. Rufus Grider, of Bethlehem, which attracted considerable attention at the Centennial, was shipped recently to London, England, to be placed among the American exhibits in the exhibition. John Jordan, Jr., who was the owner of the painting, presented it to the Moravian Society for the promotion of the gospel among the heathen, and it has been kept for some years in the archive room of the church at Bethlehem. The painting, which is considered Scheussel's masterpiece, is valued at \$5,000, and has been reproduced as a steel engraving. It was loaned at the earnest solicitation of the directors of the exhibition, some of them having seen it at the Centennial.

Pennsylvania is an immense State, yet it doesn't seem large enough to contain more than one Revolutionary pensioner, a Mrs. Betz, for whose benefit a bill was introduced in the Senate some weeks ago, the object of which is to increase the meagre stipend she at present receives from the State Treasury. Mrs. Betz, who has been a resident of Harrisburg ever since her husband died, thirty-four years ago, was the second wife of Peter Betz, a drummer boy in the Revolutionary war, to whom she was married in 1814, she being then only 16 years of age, while her husband was 55. The venerable dame is





now 89 years old, but for all that is reported to be quite vivacious and likely to "hold the fort" for some years to come as Pennsylvania's only Revolutionary pensioner.—*Exchange.*

#### DEATH OF CHARLES STURDEVANT.

**A Representative of a Pioneer Family Passes From Life—His Mother was in the Battle of Wyoming.**

Charles Sturdevant died at his residence on Hanover Street, April 13, 1887, aged about 75 years, having been born in Braintrim Township, Luzerne County, now Wyoming County, Nov. 12, 1812. With but a single exception (that of an elder sister) he was the last of a large family of brothers and sisters. His brothers were Major John Sturdevant, Gen. E. W. Sturdevant and L. D. Sturdevant, who all died within the last few years, aged respectively 83, 78 and 82 years.

His father, Samuel Sturdevant, emigrated from Connecticut in 1792 and settled upon the banks of the Susquehanna River some 40 miles above the Wyoming Valley, where he became a prominent business man.

The man to whose memory we devote a few passing moments was a merchant in Braintrim until the year 1856, when he removed to this city, where he entered into business in the old Sidney Tracy building, corner of Franklin and Market Streets, where now stands the Wyoming National Bank.

In 1862 he entered the army, serving in the Excelsior Brigade, under Maj. Gen. Sickles and with the 2d Army Corps under Maj. Gen. Hancock until the close of the war. Since that time he has lived upon the farm in South Wilkes-Barre where he passed peacefully away. He was a silent man among men, but the grand old forest trees had a language for him, and the wild bird on hill had no fear at his coming. He was a man full of affection and was loved most by those that knew him best. His wife, a daughter of the late Maj. I. H. Ross, and four daughters survive. One daughter is the wife of Nathan Bennett, Esq. Another the widow of the late Allan Brotherhood. Another is the widow of the late Ziba Faser, and a fourth, Miss Sallie, has occupied a responsible position for several years in the postoffice, in charge of the money order and registered letter department.

Deceased comes from a highly respected family who figured prominently in the early history of the Wyoming region. His parents were Connecticut people, and it may not be generally known that his mother was in the Wyoming fort at the time of the massacre of 1778. She was Elizabeth, daughter of John N. Skinner, and her grandfather was one of the aged men in charge of the fort as

protectors of the women and children. Her father was in the fight. Elizabeth, then a child, and her parents went on foot, with the women and children spared by the Indians, through the wilderness called the "Shades of Death," to the Delaware River and thence to Connecticut. The grandfather of deceased, Rev. Samuel Sturdevant, was a Baptist minister and preached the first sermon known to have been preached by a white man in Abington. Previous to his ministerial life he served throughout the Revolutionary war as an orderly sergeant and captain. After the war he emigrated to Black Walnut, now Wyoming County, where he engaged in farming, and continued to reside until his death in 1828. The maternal grandfather of the subject of this sketch was Ebenezer Skinner, who located in 1776 at the north of the Tuscarora Creek, 12 miles below Wyalusing, on lands adjoining the purchase of Rev. Mr. Sturdevant. At the advance of the Indians down the valley in 1778, he and his family went to Forty Fort, by canoe down the Susquehanna River, that being then and for many years the only means of travel up and down the river.

#### Death of Mrs. Perry.

About noon May 5 Mrs. Ann Perry, relict of the late Richard Perry, and mother of our townsman, J. R. Perry, died at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. Susan Stern, 350 North Main Street, aged 92 years. She had resided in this community many years and was generally known and highly respected. She is survived by nine children, six sons and three daughters. Six of her children are now living in this city, J. R., H. C. and S. R. Perry, Mrs. Stern, Mrs. Mary Neiman and Mrs. Margaret Krantz, the latter two residing on Kulp Avenue. The funeral took place Saturday at 4 pm. with interment in Hollenback cemetery.

#### Death of a Forty Fort Lady.

Miss Matilda Ann Adams, sister of Mrs. Rev. E. H. Snowden, of Forty Fort, died at the residence of the latter Thursday, April 14, aged 81 years. About a month ago Miss Adams met with an accident by which she broke one of her arms and sustained internal injuries. For a while she seemed to improve, but her extreme age seemed to be against her ultimate recovery and in the beginning of the week a change for the worse was noticeable. Deceased was a lady universally respected and her friends were legion. Services were held at the house Sunday, at 4 pm., Rev. Dr. Hodge officiating. On Monday the remains were conveyed to Newberg, N. Y., and interred in the family vault.





## REV. I. H. TORRENCE.

**His Severe Affliction—Extensive Acquaintance With Leading Divines—Interesting Personal Reminiscences.**

The friends of Rev. Irvin H. Torrence in the West Branch Valley—and he has many of them—will regret that he is almost totally blind, and therefore deprived from moving about without assistance. Colonel J. Sallade, of Williamsport, who recently visited him at his home at Riverside, opposite Danville, says:

"Among the many regrets we have for the great affliction that now deprives our old and dear friend of his sight, is that we fear he will be unable to carry out his intention of writing a book of facts and incidents of a 44 years' ministerial life, 34 of which were devoted to the Bible Society of all denominations. Perhaps no man in the State has come in contact with more of the older families, or preached in as many pulpits of different denominations than Mr. Torrence. His associations with clergymen, such as Bishops Potter, Bowman and Stevens of the Protestant Episcopal; Myer and Demmie of the Lutheran; Barnes, Boardman and Brainerd of the Presbyterian; Smith and Full of the Baptist, and Durbin, Simpson and Bowman of the M. E. church, and John Chambers, Independent, were close and intimate for years, because of their relations to the Bible Society. Aside from these he was intimately acquainted with hundreds of others.

"Mr. Torrence, I venture to say, occupied more pulpits of more denominations than any other divine in the State of Pennsylvania, and he has also preached at sea in a steamship while returning from Europe, and he has talked and sung with more Sunday school children, not excepting John Wanamaker, than any other man. He has also talked and sung to children from the steps of the King's palace in Germany and talked to hundreds of students in Basle, Switzerland.

"He was personally acquainted with all the governors of the State from Porter to Beaver. The former was elected in 1833 and the latter in 1836.

"During the war he was appointed a commissioner to proceed to the Southern Confederacy to relieve the prisoners in Libby and on Belle Isle. He projected a plan to relieve the prisoners at the time of the exchange dead-lock. The hearts of the great North was moved in sympathy for the sufferers, and large amounts of money and provisions could have been raised if he could have reached the prisoners.

"At this point Mr. Torrence devised a plan to reach them, which was endorsed by Governor Curtin, Secretary Stanton, General

Halleck and President Lincoln. The names of these gentlemen are now in the hands of Mr. Torrence respectively endorsing his plans, which are among the unpublished records of the war.

"There was placed at his disposal by the war department the flag ship New York, Captain Mumford commanding, which conveyed him to City Point. On his arrival there he opened a correspondence with the Confederacy, having had a personal acquaintance with Jeff Davis. In response Mr. Davis sent the Roanoke flag ship and a conference was held with Mr. Torrence, and his plans were carried back for the relief of the prisoners. While negotiations were pending Gen. Butler was put in command at Fortress Monroe, and he abruptly stopped all communications, except to allow the sending of vaccine matter, as the small pox was then prevailing to an alarming extent in the Confederate prisons where Union men were held.

"Thus one of the most humane enterprises of the war was defeated and the flag ship with Mr. Torrence returned from the mission of mercy."

Mr. Torrence first commenced preaching in the West Branch Valley, and here his earliest friendships were formed. Although unable to travel and meet his friends as of yore, they will be glad to learn that he is surrounded with comfort, that he is resigned and happy in the consciousness of having done a good work and served his Master faithfully. — *Williamsport Gazette and Bulletin*.

**Death of Mrs. Hugh McGroarty.**

On May 16 Mrs. Hugh McGroarty, a highly esteemed lady of Miner's Mills, died after less than a week's illness.

Mrs. McGroarty was born in Glantes, County Donegal, Ireland, in 1817. In 1832 she was married to Mr. McGroarty in the same parish, and in 1838 Mr. and Mrs. McGroarty came to America and settled at Summit Hill, Carbon County. Subsequently they removed to Buck Mountain and thence to Sugar Notch, and in 1866 Mr. McGroarty established the Miner's Mills Hotel, of which he continued to be proprietor until 1881.

Mrs. McGroarty was a highly intelligent woman, having a large acquaintance with English literature, in which she turned her attention chiefly to poetry. For 30 years she had been a subscriber to the *Boston Pilot*. Deceased leaves five children, Mrs. Michael Farrell, of Sugar Notch; Mrs. John Murrin, of Carbondale; Mrs. Michael McHale, Miner's Mills; Hugh McGroarty, Jr., and John S. McGroarty. Another son, Barney, died some years ago. Mrs. McGroarty was buried at Buck Mountain.





#### Death of Elias Robins.

After making a brave battle for life against a most painful and relentless disease, Elias Robins died May 17 at Hot Springs, Ark., whither he had gone in the vain hope of finding relief. Mr. Robins was a sufferer from sciatic rheumatism of a most acute and excruciating form and had been unable to attend to business for a year or two. Two months ago he went to Hot Springs with his wife and daughter, and they were with him at the last. He appeared to improve at first, but blood poisoning set in to aggravate his condition, and for some weeks he could not be moved unless put under the influence of morphine.

Mr. Robins was born in Hanover Township, July 1, 1826, and spent his boyhood days on his father's farm. When about 15 years old he came to Wilkes-Barre as a clerk for Ziba Bennett, with whom and whose family he was ever afterwards identified. Mr. Bennett reposed great confidence in his young clerk and seven years later took him into partnership, the firm also including Charles Parrish and being styled Bennett, Parrish & Co. In 1854 the firm was dissolved and Mr. Robins went to Valparaiso, Ind., to engage in business, but a few years experience made him long for the old home and he accordingly returned to Wilkes-Barre, going in again with Mr. Bennett. In 1860 a new firm was formed—Z. Bennett & Co.—consisting of Mr. Bennett, Mr. Robins and Philip Abbott. The firm carried on business for 19 years, but a dissolution was rendered necessary in 1879 by the death of the senior partner, Mr. Bennett. The only change was the taking of Mr. Bennett's interest by the widow, Priscilla Lee Bennett, the firm name becoming Bennett & Co. About 1882, Mr. Abbott removed to St. Paul, where he now resides, and Mrs. Bennett disposed of her interest to her grandson, Frank Phelps, who with Mr. Robins continued the business as the Bennett Hardware Company up to the present time.

Mr. Robins was a man of sterling integrity, strictly devoted to business and a man who was recognized in the community as a kind husband, an affectionate father and a most excellent citizen. He mingled little with the general activities of the town, though he was at one time a member of the school board and was during all his late years a trustee and treasurer of the Home for Friendless Children, discharging the duties in a painstaking and faithful manner. He was a member of the official board of the First M. E. Church, as also a member of the church and taking an active interest in the Sunday school.

Mr. Robins was twice married, his first wife being Mary A. Mills, of Hanover Town-

ship, who bore him five children, of whom only two are living, Norman, residing in Indiana, and Mary E., living at home. The late Mrs. Jesse T. Morgan was a daughter. His second wife, who survives him, was Miss Sarah J. Overton.

Deceased was the son of John Robins, who was born in New Jersey and settled in Hanover shortly after 1800. Elias was the youngest of a family of eight children, of whom Elizabeth married Lewis Whitlock, Mary died unmarried in 1880, Cornelius married Hannah Wiggins, Abner married Catherine Fastnach, Margaret married Nathan G. Howe, John G. died unmarried, and James H. married Harriet Monega. Besides this branch of the Robins family, Hanover Township has been peopled by another branch, also from New Jersey, the two probably having more representatives than any other name in the township.

#### Death of Edward Enterline.

Edward Enterline, the well known dealer in hides, tallow, etc., died Tuesday afternoon, May 3, at his home on South Main Street, aged 65 years. Mr. Enterline was formerly a wealthy and prominent citizen of Tamaqua, whence he came to Wilkes-Barre in 1875. He was born in Gratz, Dauphin County, Aug. 8, 1821, where he learned the tanner's trade. Moving early in life to Tamaqua, he there became proprietor of a large tannery in that place and achieved a large fortune, all of which was lost in the panic of 1873.

Shortly afterward Mr. Enterline removed to Wilkes-Barre and engaged in the hide and tallow business in which he has been successful. Deceased had been suffering from heart disease which became complicated with lung trouble recently, causing him to take to his bed a few days ago. Mrs. Enterline, whom he married in 1841, is lying ill at her home suffering from the result of a surgical operation. Mr. and Mrs. Enterline have had 10 children, five of whom are still living, three being daughters, one of whom is Mr. C. Ben Johnson, of this city.

The funeral took place from the late residence, 250 South Main Street, Friday, at 7:30 a.m. Interment was made at Tamaqua.

The *Doylestown Democrat* for March 15, contains a contribution signed E. M., entitled: "New Britain Homesteads—Lands of the Delaneys, the Hines Family." The progenitor of the Hines family came to America from Ireland about 1720 and the family have ever since been prominent in Bucks County. One of them served his country as an officer during the Revolutionary struggle.





**Capt. John Dennis Dead.**

At 2:50 pm. May 3, Capt. John Dennis, who has been prostrated with a paralytic stroke, died at his residence in Parsons. He was born in Beeralston, Devonshire, England, in 1810 and came to this country in 1848 and settled in Scranton. He remained there until 1851 and then removed to Pittston, where he resided only about 10 months, when he removed to Phoenixville, Chester County. He lived there for three years and then took up his home in Plymouth, where he lived until 1856. Here he entered the business of contracting for the sinking of shafts, etc., in and around the mines. He sank the Patton shaft in Poke Hollow, the first shaft put down on the west side of the river in this section. In 1856 he moved to the Empire and was the contractor for the sinking of that shaft under the superintendency of Charles Parrish. He moved from the Empire to Buttonwood in 1859 and started the sinking of the shaft there but before it was completed moved to Arlington, N. J., and from there to Orange County, N. Y., where he was superintendent of the Erie lead mines, where he remained long enough to furnish lead enough to conquer the rebellion, the works which he superintended sending out 300 tons of lead per month. He left Orange County in 1867 and moved to this vicinity where he remained until the hour of his death, though he never entered active business again. In 1881 he was elected Burgess of Plymouth and served two terms. About a year ago he moved to Parsons. He was twice married and is survived by his second wife and seven children by his first wife, whom he married in England and who died in Wilkes-Barre in 1878. His eldest son, John, died in Plymouth in 1854. The surviving children are Richard, now living in San Francisco; William A., of San Jose, Cal.; Elizabeth, wife of Daniel Gunton, of Wilkes-Barre; Samuel J. and F. H., of Arlington, N. J., and J. R., now residing in New York. He had no children by his second wife, whose maiden name was Lydia Jones, of Plymouth, and to whom he was united some three years ago.

The funeral took place on Thursday, at 11 am. from the house at Parsons, with interment in Plymouth Cemetery.

In 1817 the average price of wheat in this region was \$3.50 per bushel. In 1827, the price was \$2. The following are the average prices from that time to 1877, taken every ten years: 1837, \$3.50; 1847, \$3.15; 1857, \$2.75; 1867, \$3.25; 1877, \$2. The present price is about 90 cents per bushel.—*Bucks County Intelligencer*.

**Death of Bernard Frauenthal.**

Bernard Frauenthal, one of the most widely known of Wilkes-Barre merchants, died at his residence 29 South Main Street, at 10:30 pm. April 23, aged 54 years, of a complication of diseases beginning a month ago with inflammation of the bowels. The immediate cause of his death was the rupture of a blood vessel early in the afternoon, the patient being unable to rally after it.

Mr. Frauenthal was born in Bavaria in 1838 and came to America in 1856, settling in Wilkes-Barre, which has since been his home. He was engaged as clerk for some time with his brother Samuel, whose place of business was in one of the old buildings on Public Square, just demolished by Edward Welles. From there he went for a short time to Pittston, where he managed his brother's boot and shoe store. While in Pittston in 1861, he married Mrs. Bomberg, nee Lowenstein, who owned a dry goods store in Wilkes-Barre, and shortly thereafter returned to this city where he embarked in the dry goods business at 29 South Main Street, in which he remained till his death. Mr. Frauenthal leaves a wife and two daughters, Rebecca and Carrie. He is also survived by four brothers, Samuel of this city, Henry and Abraham, of St. Louis, and William L., of New York, and by one sister, Mrs. Solomon Abrahams.

Deceased was a member of 10 lodges, being a prominent mason of nearly 20 years' standing. He was a member of Masonic Council. I. O. O. F. and A. L. of H. The funeral will take place on Wednesday at 2:30. Interment will be in the Jewish cemetery.

**Death of Miss Ellen C. Rutter.**

Miss Ellen Cist Rutter, the condition of whose health had for a long time been a source of anxiety to her family and friends, died at her father's house on River Street May 21, at about 4 o'clock am. Miss Rutter had suffered from Bright's disease which the best medical skill could not expel from her system.

Miss Rutter was the oldest of N. Rutter's children, of whom all are now dead save Miss Natalie, J. N. and Hervey. She was widely known and esteemed in Wilkes-Barre, being a woman of sweet Christian character and affectionate disposition. Her death will be widely mourned.

The funeral took place from the residence on North River Street Monday at 5 pm. with interment at Hollenback Cemetery, Rev. Dr. Hodge, of whose congregation deceased was a member, officiating.





## DEATH OF MRS. OSTERHOUT.

## End of an Illness Contracted Several Months Ago.

Mrs. Elizabeth Lee Osterhout, widow of the late Isaac S. Osterhout, died at her home, corner of Northampton and Franklin Streets, April 28, at 2 o'clock a.m., after an illness of several months. Her general health had been good, though her mental faculties seemed to be slightly impaired, until last January when she suffered a severe nervous shock, owing to a fall. Mrs. Osterhout was then compelled to take to her bed, from which she never rose. Her death resulted from a complication of diseases, and on Monday morning she began rapidly to fail, taking no nourishment during the last thirty-six hours of her life.

Mrs. Osterhout's maiden name was Elizabeth Cloyd Lee, daughter of Hon. Thomas Lee, of Port Elizabeth, N. J., where she was born May 4, 1813. Her brother, Hon. Benjamin Lee is clerk of the Supreme Court at Trenton, N. J., a position to which he has just been reappointed for a further term of 5 years. Francis Lee, of Port Elizabeth, is another brother, the oldest of the family, aged 80 years. She leaves one other brother, Clement, an invalid, of Port Elizabeth. Two other brothers are dead, as is also a sister, the family having consisted of 7 children.

In 1840 Miss Lee became Mrs. Isaac S. Osterhout, her husband being the donor of the Osterhout bequest for the foundation and perpetuation of a free public library. Indeed the idea of this magnificent bequest, estimated at \$300,000, was suggested to Mr. Osterhout by his wife and the two were equally interested in the project. Upon his death Mr. Osterhout bequeathed \$30,000 to his wife and a life interest in one-half of his real estate. The remainder of his property, beyond some few minor bequests, being left to nine trustees to accumulate for five years and then be utilized in the establishment of the library.

Inquiry of one of the trustees of the library fund elicited the information that the death of Mrs. Osterhout would probably in no way affect the plans of the trustees with regard to the use of the Presbyterian Church. The income of the trustees will be increased by about \$4,000, making their total annual income, from the estate, in the neighborhood of \$13,000.

The funeral took place April 30, at 3 o'clock. A large number of friends were present at the services, among them the following relatives, Benjamin Lee and son, of Trenton, Mr. and Mrs. Dickinson, of Camden, Dr. and Mrs. Kirby, of Bridgton, N. J., Peter M. Osterhout, of Tunkhannock and

Mr. and Mrs. Draper Smith, of Plymouth. Rev. Henry L. Jones conducted the service and there was singing by Mrs. Thomas, Miss Hillman, Adolph Baar and John B. Yeager. The pall bearers were six of the trustees of the Osterhout Free Library, Hon. E. L. Dana, A. H. McClintock, A. F. Derr, Sheldon Reynolds, Dr. Hodge and Hon. H. B. Payne, the carriers being an equal number from St. Stephen's vestry, O. M. Brandow, F. J. Leavenworth, Garrett Smith, S. L. Brown, Hon. C. A. Miner and Hon. H. W. Palmer. Owing to the often expressed desire of Mrs. Osterhout there were no flowers at her funeral.

## Mrs. Osterhout's Will.

The last will and testament of the late Mrs. Elizabeth Lee Osterhout, has been filed and admitted to probate in the office of Register of Wills Boyd. Its provisions are as follows:

To her sister-in-law, Mrs. Jane B. Lee, of Bridgeton, N. J., widow of her deceased brother, Lorenzo F., she leaves \$2,000.

To her niece Mrs. Josephine B. Dickinson, of Camden, N. J., daughter of her brother Francis Lee, she leaves \$2,000.

To her cousin, Mrs. Anna Lee Paine, wife of L. C. Paine, she leaves \$1,000.

To her cousin, Miss Margaretta C. Lee, of Wilkes-Barre, she leaves \$2,000.

To her cousin, Mrs. Caroline Bickley, widow of the late Peterson Bickley, \$1,000.

To Mrs. Elizabeth Collings, daughter of the late Andrew Beaumont, \$1,100.

To Mrs. Elizabeth Gilchrist, widow of the late Peter McC. Gilchrist and to Mrs. H. B. Payne, of Kingston, each \$500.

The furniture and other personal property of decedent is bequeathed to a number of her relatives and friends, except her books and some of her pictures, which are donated to the Osterhout Free Library.

All the rest of her estate, real, personal and mixed, is divided as follows:

To her brother Clement J. Lee, of Newport, N. J., one-fifth part.

To her brother Francis Lee, of Port Elizabeth, N. J., one-fifth part.

To her brother Benjamin F. Lee, of Trenton, N. J., one-fifth part.

To her nephew William S. Bowen, of Philadelphia, and to her niece Mrs. Jane B. Kirby, of Bridgeton, N. J., each one-tenth part.

To her nephews Henry S. Lee and Alfred S. Lee, of Evanston, Wyoming Territory; Lorenzo F. Lee, of Eagle Rock, Idaho, and C. S. Lee, of Philadelphia, each one-twentieth part.

Of the legatees, two have died since the will was made, Mrs. Collings and Mrs. Gilchrist.

If any of the legatees objects to any of the provisions of the will or contest the same,





then the legacy to such legatee shall become null and void.

The will is dated Dec. 23, 1882, and appoints L. C. Paine and A. H. McClintock as executors. The signature was witnessed by Harrison Wright, since dead, and A. T. McClintock.

#### A Former Wilkes-Barrean Dead.

Alexander H. Dana, a prominent lawyer in New York City for many years, died early Wednesday morning, April 27, of peritonitis, at the home of his daughter, Mrs. C. H. Noyes, at Montclair, N. J. Mr. Dana was born in Owego, N. Y., July 4, 1807. He was a son of Eleazar Dana, president judge of that district, who was a brother of Anderson Dana, Sr., and in early life removed from Wilkes-Barre to Owego. Deceased was graduated from Union College, Schenectady, when he was 17 years of age. He studied law in New York, and began practice before he was 21. He was first associated with a Mr. Egan, but afterward became head of the firm of Dana, Woodruff & Leonard. This connection existed until 1854, when he took offices with Clarkson N. Potter. After that he either practiced by himself or was associated with his son, Francis E. For the last five years he did little work. One of his last important cases was the controversy had by the Stewart estate with the Lelands, in which he was successful. He was a very effective pleader, possessing a good voice and fluency of language. He wrote the law articles for the first edition of Appleton's New American Encyclopedia. He was the author of "Enigmas of Life, Death and the Future State," and "Ethical and Physiological Inquiries." His wife died in 1879, and since then he has lived alternately with his married daughters in Montclair and Brooklyn. He leaves two sons and three daughters. Of the sons Francis E. is a lawyer and the Rev. Dr. M. Dana, a minister at St. Paul, Minn. The funeral took place from the residence of his daughter, Mrs. E. A. Street, 286 Hancock Street, Brooklyn.

#### Gregory was Named for Him.

George Gregory, of this township, died April 8. He had been ailing for some time, although not supposed seriously. But the culmination of his disease took place unexpectedly, and Friday morning he died. Mr. Gregory was over 67 years of age, and had always been a resident of Hunlock. By his own exertions he acquired a good, practical education—rather better than the most of his school fellows—and taught several terms of common schools. He was elected in early life to the then important office of justice of the peace, in Union Township. Sub-

sequently, he was elected to various other township offices, all of which he filled satisfactorily to those who elected him. Nearly thirty years ago, he and his brother Benjamin built the grist mill, at the place now known as Gregory. He also owned the grist mill at Ceasatown, in Jackson Township. In early life he married Miss Frances Roberts, who survives him, and is now the postmistress of Gregory postoffice. A large congregation of friends assembled at the funeral on Sunday at the homestead, to pay their last respects to a generous and obliging neighbor and a useful, memorable man.

#### A White Haven Contractor Dead.

John W. Levan died at White Haven Monday, May 9, after an illness that confined him to his bed for only three days, at the age of 58 years. Mr. Levan was up to the time of his death one of the most extensive coal breaker designers and builders in the Lehigh region. He has been the builder of breakers for A. Pardee & Co., John Leisenring & Co. and Cox & Co. for the past ten years. He had just completed at the time of his death a very large and modern designed breaker for the Silver Brook Coal Co. in Schuylkill County.

Deceased is survived by his wife and several adult children. The eldest son, Lafayette, is the general superintendent of the Oliver Chilled Plow Works in South Bend, Ind. Daniel H. has been associated with his father in breaker building and other contract work. The firm built the several saw mills of Albert Lewis & Co., the latest being one at Harvey's Lake. Of the daughters, Elizabeth is the wife of Gaius L. Halsey, Esq.; Alice is the wife of A. W. Fellows; Abbie is the wife of William F. Porter, principal of the White Haven schools. All the children except Lafayette reside in White Haven and he arrived prior to his father's death.

Mr. Levan occupied a foremost position in the business interests of White Haven and was a prominent and highly respected citizen. He took a leading interest in the construction of the inter-county bridge, recently erected by Luzerne and Carbon Counties, and was one of the partners in the White Haven Bronze Burial Casket Co. He was a member of the town council for many years. Mr. Levan was a regular attendant upon the services of the Presbyterian Church. He gave detailed directions as to his funeral, specifying that he be buried under Masonic auspices in the family plot at Siegfried's Bridge, Northampton County.





**Death of Mrs. Munson.**

[Letter to the Editor.]

Mrs. Elizabeth Munson, mother of D. A. Munson, died at her son's in Franklin Township, Columbia Co., on Thursday, the 5th inst., after an illness of nearly six weeks. The deceased was born July 7, 1797. Her father, Christian Atherholt, was one of the first settlers in the back part of Kingston Township, Luzerne Co., when all was a wilderness, for I have often heard Mrs. Munson tell about the hard times when their small crops were cut off by the frost. Once I remember her telling that all they had to eat was milk and roused apples, also that she had worked a week for a yard of calico. She used also to tell about the wolves howling in packs nearby, and some of them venturing even to come on the roof of their log cabin.

She was the second wife of Abel Munson, his first wife being Elizabeth Shaver, by whom were born seven children, Philip, Charles, Walter, Mary Ann, Asa, George and Able. By the second wife, David A. Mrs. Munson reared five of the step-children to manhood and womanhood, unprotected by a husband's hand, for as some of the readers of this piece will remember, Able Munson was killed Dec. 8, 1836, by the upsetting of his wagon along the narrows in Toby's Creek, where it is supposed he froze to death, as he was found with his head out of water. The team was also dead. The step children now alive are Philip, now a resident of Michigan; George of Iowa; Asa of Kingston Township, Luzerne Co. Mary Ann married George Atherholt, but died, leaving a child a week old, a girl, whom Mrs. Munson took, and with her son D. A., reared to womanhood, when she became the wife of George Johnson, of Brown's Corners, Jackson Township. There are living yet of her sisters, Mary, the wife of Hiram Harris, Rachel, the wife of John Anderson, and David Atherholt, their only brother. Those dead were Katy Schooley, wife of Isaac Schooley; Esther Delay, wife of Jacob Delay, and Nancy Fazer, wife of your townsman, John Fazer.

Mrs. Munson lived in Kingston Township until April 1, 1872, when she, with her son D. A., moved to Franklin Township, Columbia Co., where she enjoyed reasonably good health up to within a few weeks of her death. She was a member of the christian church for 40 years or more, and a strict attendant to church duties. She was buried at Mt. Zion, the funeral being conducted by Rev. W. S. Hamlin. May her christian-like life lead the family she left to higher attainments in the spiritual life that they may meet her on the other shore. D. A. M.

Franklin Township, May 14, 1887.

**Mrs. Clement Hooper Dead.**

Rebecca M. Metzger, wife of Clement Hooper, daughter of Daniel Metzger and sister of Charles B. and Miss Linda Metzger, died Sunday, May 15, aged 48 years, 11 months and 3 days, at her home, 31 Madison Street. Mrs. Hooper died of a complication of lung and heart troubles, though her death came suddenly. She was married to Mr. Hooper in 1869, at the Metzger homestead, now occupied by Wm. Stoddart, they removing soon after to Philadelphia, where her husband was actively engaged as a contractor. His health breaking down, they removed to Wilkes-Barre. Deceased was an active member of Memorial Presbyterian Church and a worker in the Sunday School. She was educated at Wyoming Seminary, graduating therefrom in 1854. From that time until her marriage, 15 years later, she taught school, and there are hundreds of persons in Wilkes-Barre, now grown up and married, who received their first education at her hands. Like her mother, she was fond of going about doing good, and was a welcome visitant in the sick-rooms of such of her acquaintances as needed her kindly ministrations. She was one of earth's noblest women, and there will be many an aching heart upon hearing of her demise. Besides her father and husband, five children are left to sorrow for a loving and indulgent mother—Cynthia, William, Carrie, Mary, Juliet. The funeral took place Tuesday at 4 o'clock. Interment in the family plot in Hollenback Cemetery.

**Death of an Octogenarian.**

Mrs. Esther McCarty, of Dallas, whose husband died several years ago, died on May 23d at 2 p.m., after two or three weeks' illness, of rheumatism. Mrs. McCarty 8 years ago suffered a fracture of the hip, and had been unable to walk since. She had lived half a century in Dallas and was at the time of her death 88 years of age.

Mrs. McCarty leaves a large family of children, all adults: Mrs. James Riley, Mrs. Emilie Johnson, Peter H. McCarty, Wm. McCarty, Enoch McCarty, Harvey McCarty, all of Dallas, Mrs. Elizabeth Worden, a widow, of Harvey's Lake, and Freeman McCarty, of Wilkes-Barre. The funeral took place Tuesday at 2 p.m. at the Dallas M. E. Church, with interment in the adjoining cemetery.

—Mrs. Julia A. Brown, widow of Truman Brown, of Jackson, Luzerne County, died at the residence of her son, Marion Brown, on Monday, May 2, aged 81 years. She was a sister of Gordon and Butler Swetland, of Mehoopany.—*Tunkhannock New Age.*





## ROUT OF THE SIX NATIONS.

**Sullivan's Expedition in 1779**—The Journals of the Officers and Centennial Proceedings of 1879 About to be Published by the State of New York.

Maj.-Gen. John Sullivan and the officers who accompanied him on his expedition against the Six Nations of Indians in 1779 were certainly among the luckiest ones of the American Revolutionary war. They were lucky at the time in being detailed to perform a task in which the chances were many to one in favor of winning fame at the least exposure to danger, lucky in the time of year selected for their expedition, lucky in having been set upon the Indians at a time when the latter were poorly prepared to offer resistance, and lucky in having been given authority to exterminate as they went along. The operations of these Indians and their Tory leaders in the Mohawk Valley, in Schoharie, at Cherry Valley and at Wyoming had convinced the American commander that the most humane solution of the Indian problem then under consideration was to wipe out the power if not the persons of those troublesome New York tribes. The time selected for striking the blow was in summer, when the invading army would be able to destroy the growing as well as the stored supplies of the enemy, thereby reducing to want whatever number might survive the sword. The expedition started from the point of rendezvous on the Susquehanna, in Pennsylvania, in June, accomplished the object of its mission, and, returning, arrived at the point of departure in October. Any one acquainted with the country which Sullivan's army traversed would say that a midsummer journey through it must be a pleasant experience under the most trying conditions. The march of this military command was a picnic compared with the average experience of other sections of the American Army of the Revolution. The fame of the expedition would be secured by the fact of its having made an end of the power of the Six Nations, but it was preserved for a perpetual presence by the literary zeal and industry of the subordinate officers of the command.

The good luck of the expedition followed it after the war and is still with it. The many minute and accurate journals fell into the right hands for their preservation and now, after more than a hundred years, the conditions for their permanent keeping in book form are singularly propitious. In 1879 centennial celebrations of Sullivan's march were held at prominent points along the line, notably at Elmira, where the first important engagement was had with the Indians; at Waterloo, in commemoration of the

events in Geneva County; at Geneseo, the ultimate point of the march, and at Aurora on Cayuga Lake, the site of one of the Indian towns that were destroyed. The Legislature of 1879 passed an act authorizing the publication under the direction of the Secretary of State of the proceedings of similar celebrations of the hundredth anniversary of the battles of Oriskany and Saratoga, and of the founding of the State at Kingston. In 1881 an item of \$5,000 was put in the Supply Bill to pay for the publication of the proceedings of the Sullivan celebrations and the journals kept by the officers of the expedition, but Gov. Cleveland vetoed it, not deeming the matter to be collected and published of sufficient public importance to justify the expenditure. In 1885 a special act providing for this publication was passed and was signed by Gov. Hill. The Comptroller refused to permit the work to go on, however, because the amount to be expended, \$5,000, was not specifically appropriated. Last year this defect was remedied by placing the amount in the regular Supply Bill. These records could not well be published by private enterprise. However desirable it might be to have them in accessible and authentic form, they would not make a book for popular sale. It was therefore fortunate for the Sullivan expedition that the Governor, who was to approve of the appropriation, was a native and life resident of the region through which the march was made. He had a personal pride in putting the record in book form. Another circumstance in favor of having the work of publishing this record done accurately and promptly is that it falls upon the present Deputy Secretary of State, Diedrich Willers, Jr., a resident of Seneca County, and something of an enthusiast on the history of the Six Nations.

Mr. Willers is now reading the proofs of the volume, which is published under contract by Knapp, Peck & Thomson, of Auburn. It will be a book of over 700 pages, printed and bound in popular book form. The editorial supervision primarily is in charge of Gen. John S. Clark, of Auburn, who has enriched the text with abundant foot-notes which throw much clear and useful side-light on the narrative. There are 26 distinct journals by Sullivan's officers. Some of them are for the most part daily entries, giving the condition of the troops, the distance marched, the state of the weather, and the kind of country met with, while others are remarkably full. It seems as if the journalizers regarded their enterprise as one that future generations would be anxious to know all about. Besides the journals the book will contain accounts of the centennial celebrations of 1879, steel portraits of the principal officers, including





Gen. Sullivan, Gen. James Clinton, who conducted the right wing of the invading army from the Mohawk Valley by way of Otsego Lake and the Susquehanna to "Tioga Point," now Athens, Pa.; Col. Philip von Courtland, Col. Peter Gansevoort and others; also a most valuable feature in the shape of maps of the main march and the most important of the sub-expeditions into the country of the Senecas and Cayugas. These maps are not deductions from the text of the journals. They are facsimilies of maps made by the geographers and surveyors of the expedition. The route of the main march and the diversion through the Cayuga country were measured by the chain of the surveyor who accompanied the army, and accurate maps were made and preserved. In reading these journals and examining the maps one is surprised to see how the distances and comments on the country, then a forest save where the Indians had their corn-fields and their vegetable-gardens, tally with the more accurate surveys of recent times. The length, size, character, and possibilities for navigation of the lakes from Cayuga westward as far as Sullivan marched in this State are set forth with an accuracy which left nothing for subsequent explorers and pioneers to add. Throughout the journals the original nomenclature and orthography have been preserved.

Gen. John Sullivan was engaged in the thickest of the fight for American independence, but his name might not be remembered before some of his compeers if it were not connected with this last struggle of the Six Nations for existence. He commanded the first American force that offered armed resistance to Great Britain. This was in December, 1774, near Portsmouth, N. H., the December before the battle of Lexington. He was born in Berwick, Maine, February 17, 1740, and was bred a lawyer. In 1775 he was appointed Brigadier General. The next year he went to Canada with a reinforcement, and by reason of his successes he was commissioned a Major-General in August, 1776. He did good work in the battle of Long Island, where he was captured. Having been exchanged, at Trenton, in 1776, he was in command of Gen. Lee's division. In 1777 he made a raid upon Staten Island, commanded the right of the American forces at Brandywine, gained a victory over the British at Germantown, but was afterwards repulsed, did some excellent service in Rhode Island, and was next selected by Gen. Washington to lead the famous expedition against the Six Nations. Throughout that incursion the strictest military discipline was enforced. It is probably true that no separate command during

the Revolutionary war was handled with the intelligence and appreciation of the work in hand that characterized the rout of the Six Nations. When he returned from the Indian country, Sullivan resigned his commission and re-entered Congress, which he had left in 1775 to take a command. From 1782 to 1786 he was Attorney General of New Hampshire, and for the next three years Governor of the State. His last service was on the bench as Federal Judge of New Hampshire, which position he held from 1789 till his death in 1795.

But for this Sullivan march into the western country of the Six Nations, New York State would have no soil west of Oneida and Oswego Counties, from the lake to the Pennsylvania border, that was touched by the Revolutionary war. The left wing of Burgoyne's army from Oswego was headed off at Fort Stauwix (Rome) and Oriskany, and its line of march bounded the Revolutionary territory of New York State on the west, except as to Sullivan's invasion. The country through which the Sullivan army marched must always be noted for charming scenery, richness of soil and the contentment and intelligence of its people. From Wyoming to the junction of the Eastern Susquehanna and the Chemung Rivers the valley is narrow but fertile. From this junction to Elmira some of the richest farms of Southern New York are spread out. The route thence to the head of Seneca Lake is the least attractive of Sullivan's entire march. It was on this portion that the army met their most disagreeable experiences. The journals of the officers agree in execrating the Catharine swamp and the marsh land at the head of the lake. From where the village of Havana now stands the army bore to the right and followed the east shore of Seneca Lake, rounding the foot of it and making one of its most noted halts where Geneva now stands. Thence the line was west, past the north end of Canandaigua Lake on to the Genesee River, near the village of Genesee. This river being considered the western limit of the country to be invaded, the army countermarched intact till it arrived at the site of Geneva. Thence three expeditions were sent out, one, under Col. Peter Gansevoort, through the territory of the Onondagas, the Oneidas and the Mohawks, to Albany as the terminus of the march; another, under Col. William Butler, to cross the foot of Cayuga Lake and traverse its eastern shore; the third, under Col. Deerborn, to proceed to the west shore of Cayuga Lake and follow it to the head of the lake. Meantime the main army under Sullivan continued their return march up the east shore of Seneca Lake over the line advanced upon. Col. Butler and Col. Deer-





born had orders to follow Cayuga Lake on either side to its head and thence to proceed across country and join the main army at or near Newtown, now Elmira. Col. Butler on the east side of Cayuga Lake destroyed an Indian village where Union Springs now is, another where the pretty village of Aurora now sits by the lake side, and others on his way up to the site of the present Ithaca. There he expected to be joined by Col. Deerborn, but the two detachments did not reunite till they joined the main army on the Chemung. About two miles south of Ithaca the last Indian village the expedition encountered was destroyed. When the army was reunited, all except Gen. Gansevoort's Mohawk detachment, near Newtown, a jollification was held after which the march back to Wyoming for further service was successfully accomplished. The journals of the officers mention a minor expedition that was sent up the Chemung valley, while the main army was waiting at Newtown for the Cayuga Lake expedition, to dislodge any Indians that might be found as far west as Painted Post.—H. D. C. in *New York Evening Post, Albany Letter.*

#### The Merediths are Mixed.

A writer in the *Honesdale Independent* says the remains of Gen. Samuel Meredith, whom President Washington appointed United States Treasurer and whom Thomas Jefferson complimented for his integrity, lie buried at Belmont, Wayne Co., Pa., in a grave unmarked by any fitting memorial, and this writer, after lamenting this sad fact, says:

"You will allow me to say that history informs me that Samuel Meredith was born in Philadelphia in 1779, and educated in the University of Pennsylvania. He was admitted to the Philadelphia bar in 1805, to the Wayne County bar in 1810 and to the Luzerne County bar in 1816. He was Prothonotary, and Register and Recorder of Wayne County from 1818 to 1821. In 1824 he opened the first coal mine below Carbondale. He was a man of energy and tact and died at Trenton, N. J., in March, 1855."

Washington was first inaugurated as President in April 1789, when Mr. Meredith, according to the above, was only 10 years old and rather young to be treasurer of the United States. At the beginning of Washington's second term, Mr. Meredith could have been only 14, and when Washington finally retired only 18. When the "Father of his Country" died, Mr. Meredith could not have been many months over 20 years old. The Wayne County antiquarian has either got his dates wrong or made Mr. Meredith treasurer at the wrong time. That worthy lived long enough to have been treasurer under President Taylor—when William M. Meredith, of Philadelphia, was secretary of the Treasury—or even under

President Pierce for two years.—*Exchange.*

The foregoing from the last issue of the *Milford, Pa., Gazette*, appears to present a case of very much mixed history. The tangle is straightened out, however, when it is explained that the Wayne County writer has given Thomas Meredith's history for Samuel Meredith's, the former having been the son of the latter. One of Thomas' daughters is Mrs. Capt. Graham, of this city. Samuel Meredith was treasurer of the United States under Washington and contributed with Mr. Robert Morris and other mutual friends the first monies that ever found their way into the treasury of the United States. The fact was developed in a letter written by John Sherman while secretary of the treasury after a careful examination of the old records of the office. His descendants have documentary evidence of the donation, which, by the way, is said never to have been repaid either to him or his descendants.

C. B. J.

#### Descendant of a Pioneer Family.

John S. Marcy was born Nov. 1, 1821, in Marcy Township, and has lived there all his life, with the exception of 3 years when in the late war. Mr. Marcy's family consisted of eight children, four of whom are living. One is the wife of Charles Marcy, of Marcy Township, Lackawanna County; another is the wife of P. M. Conniff, of Wilkes-Barre, and J. W. Marcy, of Kingston, and M. G. Marcy, living at home. John Marcy's grandmother was the wife of Ebenezer Marcy and daughter of Jonathan and Content Spencer, of Saybrook, Conn., afterwards of Fishkill, N. Y. Ebenezer was born Feb. 11, 1768. He was proprietor of a mill in Wyoming Valley and was at the fort on the east side of the river when the massacre occurred on the west side. The boats having been removed he was unable to be present at the fight. In the fight Ebenezer Marcy's wife gave birth to a child on Pocono Mountain, which she named Thankful. Having subsequently returned to Wyoming Valley Thankful died at the age of 19.

#### Almost a Nonagenarian.

[Catawissa News Item.]

Mrs. Elizabeth Munson, mother of D. A. Munson, died at her son's in Franklin Township, on Thursday, the 5th inst., after an illness of nearly six weeks. The deceased was born July 7, 1797, died May 5th, 1887, aged eighty-nine years, nine months and twenty-eight days; her father was one of the first settlers in Kingston Township, Luzerne County, where she lived until in April 1872, when she, with her son D. A., her only child, moved to Franklin Township.





## Old Time Dancing Masters.

[Letter to the Editor.]

I doubt if anything makes a deeper impression on the young than the glory of the first dancing school. If any exception be taken to this assertion, all I can say in return is, I am speaking for myself.

The first teacher I had the honor of performing under was a sedate gentleman by the name of Tobias, from Lancaster. That city had produced some distinguished men, but in my view none equal to Mr. Tobias. He was a man of good presence, good manner, had the use of his heels, and was a medium violinist.

I think it was in 1839, he opened his school at Morgan's, on the present site of Mr. Darling's dwelling in Wilkes-Barre and another at Atherton's hotel in Plymouth. To get all out of the thing that was in it, I attended both. It was an easy matter, on a good horse, to ford the river at Plymouth, pass up through the man and Lazarus flats, and thence on to Morgan's. Dark nights or stormy ones, or even a slight freshet, was no hindrance to an ambitious youth of 19, in search of knowledge. All the young damseels of the county seat attended the school. This probably had some weight; for that class of young ladies has never been excelled.

After this, probably the outcrop of Mr. Tobias' laborers amongst us, there was the annual ball on the 22d February at the Phoenix. To this came the notables of Berwick, Danville, Bloom, Tunkhannock and other outlying cities.

Porter, the memorable landlord of the Phoenix, had what was called a spring floor. It was over the long dining room and supported only at the sides of the apartment. The combined tramp of many feet, in time with the band, produced a vibratory motion something like the teeter of a buckboard. It always seemed a wonder to me, the whole affair didn't crash down with its live freight.

This short history pertaining to the subject of the dance, would be deficient without mention of Messrs. Morton and Jones. They were the successors of Mr. Tobias. Their school, very large and successful, was at the Dennis Hotel, where is now the National Bank.

Mr. Morton, from Philadelphia, was a very polite gentleman, short of build, yellow haired, florid complexion and frolicsome on his legs as a young colt. I never look at the picture of Pickwick in his oratorical attitude, but it reminds me of Morton. Mr. Jones, *per contra*, was a very slim young gentleman. Nature must have had a fiddler in view, when drafting the plans and specifications of his makeup. He had the most delicate of hands, with fingers like straws. How could

he be else than a prime manipulator of the strings?

I suppose it would be proper to seek pardon for making reference to matters of such minor importance, knowing that the cotillion has gone down with many other barbaric usages of our ancestors. Our more favored lasses of the present day will scarce thank me for calling off their attention from the german, the polka, the waltz, and other matters coming in on the tide of reform. But the editor of the *Historical Record* called for items of antiquity, and this rambling sketch is in obedience to his demand.

C. E. WRIGHT.

## The Federal Constitution.

Pennsylvania was the first of the large States to adopt the Federal Constitution. The excitement it called forth was intense, and the papers of the day were filled with able essays regarding it. In these papers will be found (almost entire) the debates in the Pennsylvania Convention called to ratify the Constitution. They have never been printed except in that form. What Elliot gives as the debates in the Pennsylvania Convention is nothing but the substance of James Wilson's remarks made in a running debate, brought into the form of a single speech. What called forth these remarks does not appear; nor are the views of the minority of the convention, which embody the very spirit of subsequent amendments to the Constitution, given at all.

It was hoped that upon the centennial anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution Congress would make provision for collecting and publishing everything showing the development of thought that led to its formation. But as the appropriation requested for this purpose failed to pass, it is left to the citizens of each State to preserve the records of the part their ancestors bore in this momentous period of our country's history. Pennsylvania's part in the organization of the government, as in the struggle which preceded it, was broad and honorable—more broad and honorable than has ever heretofore been set forth. The example she set in recognizing the claims of the smaller States made the adoption of the Constitution possible.

The Historical Society of Pennsylvania desires to place this record permanently before the country. It proposes to publish in a single volume of 750 pages the debates in the Pennsylvania convention, and the ablest essays printed at the time, and if the space will allow, biographical notices of the members of the State Convention, and of Pennsylvania's representatives in the Federal Convention. The work is to be edited by Professor John Bach McMaster.





### THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

#### Discussing the Proposed Removal into the Osterhout Library Building.

The last regular meeting of the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society held in the old rooms took place May 13, President E. L. Dana in the chair. A large number of members were present.

Gen. Dana announced that the meeting was for the purpose of discussing the proposition to remove into the old First Presbyterian church.

From the discussion which followed later in the evening it was obvious that the purpose of the meeting was a surprise to most of the members present, and little preparation had been made to discuss it.

The secretary, Sheldon Reynolds, read from the society's recent correspondence.

Wm. R. Maffet was proposed for membership by Dr. Ingham.

Judge Dana made the meteorological report for Feb.—April. For February the average temperature was 28.9-10 degrees; rain fall 3.47-100 inches; depth of snow fall 8¾ inches. For March, the average temperature was 31½ degree; rain fall 1.84-100 inches; depth of snow fall 3¾ inches. For April, average temperature 42½ degrees; rain fall 2.16-100 inches; snow fall 9¾ inches. The snow fall during the winter of 1886-7 by months was given as follows: Nov., 1886, 6 inches; Dec., 1886, 10½ inches; Jan., 1887, 9 inches; Feb., 1887, 8¾ inches; March, 1887, 3.3-14 inches; April, 1887, 9¾ inches; total 47½ inches. The heaviest snow fall in April since April 20, 1857 occurred April 18, 1887.

Mr. Reynolds reported that the Osterhout trustees had agreed to assign to the society the use of the lecture room, two stories, of the church, which will be ready for occupancy in July. Mr. Reynolds said it had been suggested that the society's library, or a portion of it, be merged into the Osterhout library. The government and State publications, about 3,000 volumes, particularly would be better adapted to the Osterhout library than to the shelves of the Historical Society. The trustees desire that the society inform them as to what repairs are necessary in the portion of the church building set apart for the society.

Judge Dana gave a reminiscent sketch of the growth of the society and paid it a generous eulogy on the position at which it has arrived. He announced that the chief object of the present meeting was to discuss and take action upon the proposed removal from the present quarters. The first thing to be done is to get a plan of the most economical adjustment practicable for the needs of the society. The removal of the

cabinet and library of the society should be in the hands of the curators of the several departments.

Mr. Jones moved that the committee already appointed be renewed and conjoined with the curators to confer with the Osterhout trustees, with power to act. Judge Woodward moved the old committee be discharged and a new one, consisting of the cabinet committee, be appointed in their stead. Mr. Atherton seconded the motion. Carried.

Mr. Edward Welles hoped the library of the society would be put in an alcove by itself and would not lose its individuality by being scattered about the Osterhout shelves. Mr. Reynolds announced that all but the government publications of the society's library would be kept in their rooms adjoining the library. Every one of the books will have the society's book-plate. Mr. Reynolds then moved that the government and State publications be deposited in the reference department of the Osterhout library. Mr. A. T. McClintock moved to amend that the matter be left to the cabinet committee with power to act. After discussion by Judge Woodward, G. R. Bedford and the president, the amendment and motion were withdrawn and the matter was referred to the cabinet committee and Mr. E. Welles. Adjourned to meet on Friday evening, June 3.

The names of the various contributors were read and the contributions were also announced. A vote of thanks was then tendered to all the contributors, who were as follows: Amherst College, Wisconsin State Historical Society, Dr. F. C. Johnson, C. J. Hoadley, Hon. J. R. Wright, Superintendent of Documents John G. Ames, American Geological Society, Director of the United States Mineral Survey of 1885, H. J. Smith, Minnesota Historical Society Governor James A. Beaver, Numismatic and Antiquarian Society, Meriden Science Association, Lewis Swift, Hon. J. A. Seranton, I. A. Stearns, H. J. Hill, W. A. Wilcox, Indiana Historical Society, E. H. Chase, Canadian Institute, American Geographical Society, Bureau of Education, S. H. Lynch, Owen P. Keenly, Department of the Interior, W. G. Sterling, R. G. Huling, Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences, Dr. W. H. Sharpe, Virginia Historical Society, Bangor Historical Society, Secretary Internal Affairs J. S. Africa, United States Geological Survey, American Geological Society, I. P. Hand, C. D. Collet of London, A. H. Dickson, *Luzerne County Express*, Telephone, R. Baur & Son, J. C. Coon, A. E. Foote, W. D. Averell, Percival Gasset, Commissioner of Patents, Travelers' Insurance Company, Iowa Historical Society, George W. Lang, Mrs. S. Horton, Hon. E. L. Dana.





# The Historical Record

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION

DEVOTED PRINCIPALLY TO

## The Early History of Wyoming Valley

AND CONTIGUOUS TERRITORY

WITH

## NOTES AND QUERIES

BIOGRAPHICAL, ANTIQUARIAN, GENEALOGICAL



EDITED BY F. C. JOHNSON, M. D.

Vol. I]

MAY-JUNE 1887

[Nos. 9-10.

WILKES-BARRE, PA.

Press of The Wilkes-Barre Record

MDCCCLXXXVII





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## *The Wilkes-Barre Record,*

PUBLISHED EVERY WEEK-DAY MORNING.

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THE RECORD,  
WILKES-BARRE, PENN'A.





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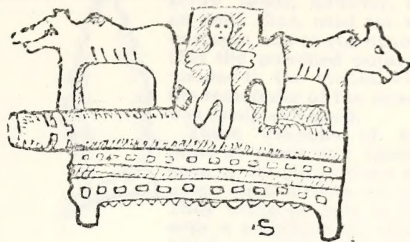
## RELICS OF THE RED MEN.

Footprints of the Indians in the Lackawanna Valley—Dr. Hollister's Cabinet of Twenty Thousand Specimens.

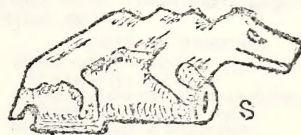
[Scranton Truth.]

Dr. Hollister's cabinet of Indian relics contains 20,000 specimens, most of which were picked up along the Lackawanna Valley. The owner's intimate knowledge of Indian language and customs invests this rare collection with an added interest, and makes it an excellent history of the Red race who a little more than a century ago held complete possession of this place, now the great centre of the anthracite industry—covered with beauty on its face, and lined with rich treasures in its bosom. The writer spent several hours recently in the doctor's cabinet room with great pleasure and profit. The Doctor treasures his relics as a miser would his gold. The collection numbers pots of stone and burned clay of various capacities; pestles of large proportions and delicate finish; agricultural implements of stone, and of every possible variety for cultivating tobacco, corn, etc.; war implements of a formidable character, comprising spear points ten inches in length, and still as keen as a knife; stone death mauls for killing captives, such as that used by the "bloody Queen Esther" at the massacre; amulets, stone rings and beads and charms worn on the person to insure immunity from danger and disease, besides every kind of implement of siler or stone, such as was fashioned and used in this region a little more than a hundred years ago when the Delaware and Monsey tribes, who were tributary to the famous Six Nations, held sway here.

Among the quaint and curious articles that attract attention is a highly elaborate stone pipe, representing the Indian idea of the universe. The bowl represents the world, supported on one side by a bear, on the other by a wolf, while a crude figure of an Indian on each of the opposite sides upposed to be standing on a log, holds up the world like a second Atlas. The following is a correct sketch of this rude piece of Indian art:



This specimen was picked up at Campbell's Ledge. Prior to the great ice floods of 1875, Indian relics were found frequently along the banks of the Susquehanna at that point, but of late such discoveries are very rare. Another odd specimen of Indian art is the turtle, or alligator calumet or *Pipe of Peace*. This is made of sharp-stone and exhibits one of the first impulses of the savage mind toward artistic representation. The following sketch will give an idea of this droll conceit:



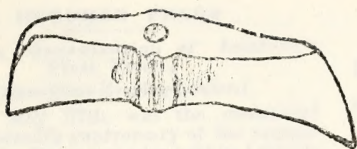
The pipe was formerly in the possession of the Nanticokes, and did duty at many a council fire, in quieting the fierce passions of the sanguinary savages, who made use of such a mode of establishing peace. It was picked up a short distance from the village of Nanticoke, near the Susquehanna River, and several miles from the scene of the Wyoming massacre.

The most ornate of the Indian amulets yet discovered in this vicinity, is the representation in stone of a bird, which was ploughed up in 1866 by Hiram Owens, in a field located in the Lackawanna Valley, four miles from Scranton. It was a charm of rare worth among the savages, and defeat could never come to the warrior who wore it.

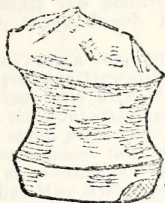
A formidable stone hatchet, such as was frequently used in the great massacre, is represented by the accompanying sketch. The weapon was picked up near Capouse Mound, a memorable spot in the Lackawanna Valley, where half a dozen of those who







were fleeing from the terrors of Wyoming were overtaken and mercilessly butchered. One of the most wonderful things connected with these stone weapons is their remarkable polish, and the keenness of edge by which they are characterized. This is shown



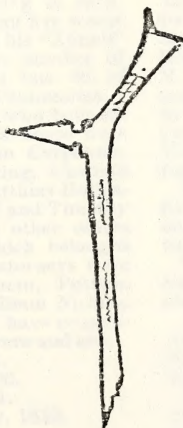
in a high degree in a stone tomahawk, or battle-axe, of the very earliest make, such as was used by the Indians when the whites first made their appearance in this region. A specimen of this deadly weapon was discovered on a farm near

Seranton, 20 years ago, by Mr. Henry Griffin. The above is a representation of it. Around the hollow portion of the stone a withe was placed to fix it to the handle, and, wielded by a powerful arm, and in the hands of a savage who regarded mercy as a disgrace, one can easily see what a cruel means it would be of putting to death a vanquished foe.

In strong contrast with the heavy stone tomahawk is that in use at present upon the Rocky Mountains, among clans who have no firearms. The following is a sketch of this light yet effective weapon:

Among the arrow-heads found so frequently along the Wyoming and Lackawanna Valleys, the Cornelian is the most beautiful and highly-prized. One of these was picked up in 1875 by Mr. Marvin Carter, at Capouse.

The old Indian apple tree stood in the midst of the wigwam village and close by was the mound from which a number of relics have been exhumed, and where, it is supposed the bodies of several warriors were laid at rest, after their spirits had passed to the happy hunting-ground.



Near this spot was also found a serrated, or saw-flint arrow-head, of which the following is a representation. It is so constructed that it could neither be introduced nor withdrawn without lacerating and doing great injury to the parts, and was considered one of the most destructive of Indian missiles.



One of the most deadly of arrow heads, however, was an oval flint, used for war purposes and so constructed that the poisoned point remained in the victim, while the remainder of the missile was easily extracted.

These weapons of war, pipes of peace and amulets have a language more eloquent than written history. They bring us face to face with a condition of things which prevailed here a little more than a hundred years ago, and as we contrast them with the implements and the civilization of the present day in the Lackawanna Valley, they naturally give rise to the question what will it be a hundred years hence when we shall all have passed away from the scene of action.

#### An Old Local Poem.

We append a portion of a poem bearing the signature of a visitor from Lancaster, taken from an old scrap book containing clippings from Wilkes-Barre papers of half a century ago:

#### ADIEU TO WYOMING.

Sweet valley! famed for noble deeds,  
In chronicle and song  
I cannot leave the pleasant fields,  
Where I have tarried long,  
Without a sigh of bitter pain,  
That I no more may see  
The friendly faces I have known—  
Sweet Wyoming! in thee.  
Thy hills, thy vales are beautiful  
As earthly scenes can be;  
Yet beauty was a fatal gift,  
Sweet Wyoming! to thee:  
Two nations saw thy winning smile,  
And wooed thee for a bride;  
And for the prize of that fair form,  
Their stoutest champions died.  
And Gertrude! brightest, sweetest child  
That fancy ever drew—  
I cannot leave these peaceful scenes  
Without a sigh for you.  
Thy gentle spirit seems to float  
O'er every mist-clad hill:  
The music of the voice to breathe,  
From every bounding rill.  
Home of the brave and beautiful!  
While memory shall be,  
The children of this land shall go  
On pilgrimage to thee:  
Forget not all thy fathers did,  
And to thyself be true—  
And now I leave thy storied vale—  
Sweet Wyoming! adieu.

LANCASTER, Feb. 17, 1841.

—J. S. P.





## A HUNDRED YEARS

Since the Organization of Luzerne's First Court.

[Wilkes-Barre Evening Leader.]

Friday, May 27th, was the centennial or one hundredth anniversary of the organization of the first court ever held in Luzerne county under Pennsylvania jurisdiction.

It was convened in Wilkes Barre, in the building then located where Judge Woodward's house now stands and was presided over by six Justices of the Common Pleas, as they were then called. There was no President Judge until the constitution of 1791 was adopted, when Jacob Rush was appointed.

It must have been a very primitive court for fourteen years afterwards, in 1801, according to a carefully kept diary, still preserved, there were but sixty houses in Wilkes Barre. And seven years later, in 1808, there were but four houses not of wood. Two stone houses were—that now occupied by Dr. Mayer and that Miss Alexander has just torn down, and two brick houses, the Perry house at the Northampton and Main corner and the Slocum house where Brown's book store now is. There was no traffic except that the farmers brought their produce over a ferry opposite Northampton street, bartered it on the common, from whence it was taken to Easton over the mountain in wagons.

It is not surprising to hear, therefore, that there were but four attorneys admitted at the first court and that for many years afterwards the total list was a very small one. In fact it is a comparatively few years since the bar of Luzerne ceased "traveling the circuit," that is traveling from court to court in Luzerne, Bradford, Tioga, Wayne and other counties and practicing in each, the trips usually consuming from five weeks to two months. Stuart Pearce in his "Annals" says that in 1784 the whole number of buildings in Wilkes-Barre was but 26, of which 23 were burned by the Pennamites.

The names of the justices who held the first court in Zebulon Butler's house were Wm. Hooker Smith, Benjamin Carpenter, James Nesbitt, Timothy Pickering, Obadiah Gore, Nathan Kingsley and Matthias Hollenback. Lord Butler was Sheriff and Timothy Pickering held about all the other offices except that of Court Crier, which belonged to Jos. Sprague. Four Attorneys were sworn in: Ebenezer Bowman, Putnam Catlin, Roswell Weiles and William Nichols.

The President Judges who have respectively presided over the court were and are:

Jacob Rush, December, 1791.  
Thomas Cooper, August, 1806.  
Seth Chapman, August, 1811.  
John Bannister Gibson, July, 1813.  
Thomas Burnside, 1817.

\*David Scott, 1818.

†William Jessup, 1838.

John N. Conyngham, 1839. Resigned in 1870, serving 31 years.

Garriek M. Harding, 12th of July, 1870, his 40th birthday. Resigned 1879.

Charles E. Rice, 1879.

There have been four Additional Law Judges, E. L. Dana, Henry M. Hoyt, John Handley and Stanley Woodward.

\*Judge Scott held the President Judgeship for over 20 years.

†Judge Jessup was twice commissioned as Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, in 1838 by Governor Ritner, and in 1848 by Governor Johnson. For a part of the time, in the change of the districts, this county came within his circuit. By a compromise arrangement between Judges Jessup and Conyngham and with the consent of the Bars of both, the Susquehanna and Luzerne districts were so adjusted as to accommodate the two Judges, putting Luzerne in Judge Conyngham's district and Susquehanna in Judge Jessup's.

There have been many distinguished men in the Luzerne bar. She has given two Chief Justices in the persons of John Bannister Gibson, and George W. Woodward, and Warren J. Woodward also served upon the Supreme bench. All three were eminent men, Judge Gibson in many respects the most eminent who ever sat in that tribunal. The words of his decisions are still quoted, just as he uttered them, as irrefutable definitions of the fundamental law.

Garriek Mallory became a Judge. George Griffin was elected constable of Wilkes-Barre as a joke, became angry, went to New York, became a friend and associate of Aaron Burr, and attained high distinction. Ovid F. Johnson and Henry W. Palmer became Attorneys General. Henry M. Hoyt became Governor. Henry M. Fuller was a remarkable man. He served in the Legislature and twice in Congress, was Whig candidate for Canal Commissioner of the state and mentioned for Vice President in 1860, though he was but forty when he died.

H. B. Wright served as speaker of the State House of Representatives, was President of the Polk Convention and several times in Congress.

Charles Denison, Chester Butler, L. D. Shoemaker, E. S. Osborne and others have also sat in Congress.

John Handley, Alfred Hand and R. W. Archbald are judges in Lackawanna. Luther Kidder also went to the bench in another district.

In the old days George Denison was a wonderful pleader. Lyman Hakes, brother of the doctor, is believed to have been the





strongest criminal lawyer the Bar ever had. Hal Wright was also a great lawyer. One of the most remarkable of the whole number was James McClintock, a poetic, sympathetic orator. His story is a very affecting one. He was assigned by Judge Scott to defend a little girl who had stolen a pair of shoes from in front of a store. The loser of the shoes had got them back, but insisted on prosecuting the child. McClintock defended her in a speech that was the talk of all this part of the state for long afterwards. Later he was nominated for Congress, principally because of this speech. There were three candidates. Two weeks afterwards, so slow were the methods of transmitting the news at that day, it was not known who was elected. In the meantime McClintock had married. Chester Butler gave a grand party in honor of McClintock and his bride. That night news came that convinced him he was elected. He was congratulated universally, on that, and on his marriage. Subsequently it transpired that he was defeated. Within a year his wife died in giving birth to her first child. The child died also, and McClintock became insane. He was sent to an asylum and died there 30 years afterwards, having been an imbecile all that time. A sad conclusion to a brilliant beginning.

Many chapters of great interest would be inspired by knowledge of the men who have plead at this bar. We have room only for these rambling, hasty reminiscences.

The bar now is as strong as any in the state. It has about 150 members. Andrew T. McClintock is the oldest in years and in practice. The younger are so numerous that nobody knows them all. The last to be admitted is Marlin Bingham Stevens, whose date is May 16, 1887, and who has an office in Ashley.

#### Relics of Sullivan's March.

WILKES-BARRE, May 23, 1887.—EDITOR RECORD: In the summer of 1841 or 1842 I saw two cannon balls unearthed on the Kingston flats, which at the time of their discovery were supposed to have been thrown there by one of Gen. Sullivan's guns the year after the massacre of Wyoming. They weighed three or four pounds each.

One of them I found while hoeing with my father and brother Charles on land now owned by John Gates. This was given to A. C. Church, whose son William, at present residing in Kingston, thinks it went into Barnum's first New York museum, which was destroyed by fire.

The other ball was found by Lyman Little, who with myself and some other boys were amusing ourselves after bathing by digging in the recently cut perpendicular bank of the river opposite the centre of Johnson's island.

LYMAN BELDING.

#### The Meteoric Shower of 1833.

NIAGARA FALLS, N. Y., May 26th, 1887.—EDITOR RECORD: In a recent number of your valuable RECORD, I read a short notice of that wonderful meteoric shower of 1833, which I remember as vividly as any event of my life, as I was at my grandfather's in Wyoming Valley on that memorable night. At about 4 o'clock in the morning he sent my mother (who then made it her home there) to our sleeping apartment to awaken us, and she, with great solemnity, told us to come down stairs to prayer as the world was coming to an end; that the scriptures were being fulfilled, the stars were indeed falling from heaven etc., etc. It was really a most solemn display and was awfully grand. The supposed stars appeared to take start from the center of the zenith or great dome, and fall as quietly to the earth, as a shower of large flakes of snow, but lost to view as they came near the surface. I distinctly remember watching the phenomena of the "falling stars," till the rising sun hid them from sight, and eagerly watched for their appearance the next night, but the shower was over, and the show was out.

S. PETTEBONE.

The RECORD's request for reminiscences has elicited some very interesting data. The latest is a letter written by Capt. James P. Dennis, who was an eye witness, to his father. The former was at this time in Philadelphia, employed on the construction of the first railroad bridge across the Schuylkill. The reference to the meteoric display is as follows:

"I observe by the papers that the splendid phenomenon of shooting stars extended over the region of Wilkes-Barre as well as Philadelphia. But I am afraid that unless 'Old Michael' rang the bell many of your sluggish citizens did not enjoy the sight. I was up, as usual nowadays, about an hour before daybreak, and upon going out to wash myself I first saw them, and it seemed to me as if all the stars in the firmament had taken it in their heads that they had been long enough stationary, and that they all with one accord were changing places. They seemed to shoot to and fro from every point of the heavens. Some of our men declared the moon was being cut to pieces and that the chips were flying from her. Some thought that there would be no more stars, that they were all falling. Others that the world was coming to an end and were prodigiously frightened. As for myself I stood and looked and wondered and admired the sight until the great luminary of day made his appearance and outshone the rest."





### The Pioneer Church of Lackawanna.

What is claimed by Rev. Dr. David Spencer, of Scranton, to be the earliest religious movement in the present bounds of Lackawanna County, was thus given in the *Scranton Republican* of January 25:

In 1794 Rev. William Bishop, a Baptist minister, settled here. He purchased nearly four hundred acres of land whereon Scranton is now situated. This purchase is on the records of Luzerne County. Rev. William Bishop was the first resident minister of any denomination in the Lackawanna Valley. His field of ministerial labor extended from Wilkes-Barre to Blakely. In all this region there was then one Baptist Church, at Pittston, organized in 1776. Of this he was the pastor. As many of the members of of this church lived in what was then Providence Township, in 1802, it was known as the "Pittston and Providence Church." This was for the sake of organic convenience. In 1806 merged into the Abington church constituted in 1802. Up to this merging Rev. William Bishop had been the pastor, but after it Rev. John Miller had the oversight. Many of the members resided within the bounds now embraced in Scranton. In the fall of 1833 Rev. William K. Mott took up his residence in Hyde Park, and the Baptist Church at Pittston was re-organized. On September 12, 1849, with Rev. W. K. Mott as pastor, the First Baptist Church, now situated on Scranton Street, below South Main Avenue, of which Rev. Owen James is the pastor, was organized. While there was not a continuous organization of the Baptist Church from 1802 to 1849, in what is now the city of Scranton, there was an organization in 1802, and members of it continued to reside in Scranton until the above distinct establishment in 1849. As to whether the Methodist, Presbyterian or Baptist were the first in this city, makes no difference to me, but I give the above as facts of interest in our early history, facts which date back to 1794, when the first Baptist Church of this city was in reality founded, if not distinctly constituted.

His residence, built by himself of hewn logs, stood on the spot occupied by the residence of the late William Merrifield, of Hyde Park, and his farm embraced land on both sides of the Lackawanna River. About fifty acres of this land, according to the records, were donated to him by the "Susquehanna Company" as the "first minister to settle in these parts." The remainder he purchased at a sum which, in contrast with the present value of the same property now, is simply the merest cypher. Just what were the exact or approximate boundaries of this original Bishop tract of land, would be a matter of great interest. I should be glad, if any one knows, or could ascertain them from the records at Wilkes-Barre, to see just what part of the city was embraced by it.

DAVID SPENCER.

Pursuant to the above request of Dr. Spencer, a RECORD reporter made the search with the following result: The records in the early days of Luzerne County's history were made out in such an unscientific manner that it is difficult to find just what one is looking for. No deed whatever by the

Susquehanna Company is recorded as such, but the deed here referred to is recorded under the names of the trustees of the company, and is, somewhat curtailed, as follows:

Constant Searle, Daniel Taylor and James Abbott, appointed by the township of Providence, describe "the lands appropriated by the Susquehanna Company (so-called) to the use and benefit of the first settled minister of the Gospel in the said town, William Bishop, of New York City, New York," Sept. 20, 1795, as lying in the town of Providence, beginning at the line of Preserved Taylor's land by the main road, thence along the road to Jonathan Dolph's, thence south 55 degrees east along Dolph's line to the old road, along the road to Preserved Taylor's line, along that line to the first mentioned bound, containing about 35 acres of land. Three other tracts are mentioned also, one on the south-east side of the river beginning at a chestnut sapling on the land leased to James Abbott and Rubin Taylor about 10 rods from the bank of the river, running south 81 degrees east 28 rods, then north 35 degrees east about 6 rods to the river, then along the river to Stephen Gardner's land, thence south 55 degrees east 800 rods, to the town line, thence south 35 degrees west, 50 rods, then north 55 degrees west, 800 rods, to the place of beginning. Another lies north and west of the main road beginning at Preserved Taylor's line; another North and west of the Mill Creek, beginning at Jonathan Dolph's and another beginning from Dolph's line and the town line.

The deed is signed and sworn to in the presence of John Phillips, justice of the peace.

### The Smallest Man.

It is believed that Plymouth possesses one of the smallest, if not the smallest, man in the State. His name is Rees Wittler. He is 34 years of age, stands just 36 inches high and weighs 58 pounds. He is a native of Wales, a son of William Wittler, of Merthyr Tydvil. He came to this country in 1875 with Evan Rees, a harper, and lived for some time with the late John Jenkins, who kept the old Wyoming House on South Main Street, this city. Mr. Rees afterwards removed to Danville, Montour County, accompanied by Wittler, and after Mr. Rees's death the little man continued to live for some years with Mrs. Rees. Mrs. Jenkins, widow of the late John Jenkins, visited Danville some months ago and brought back Wittler with her to Plymouth, where she now resides, keeping the Palace restaurant on Main Street.





## THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

**Formal Acceptance of Mr. Osterhout's Bequest—All Publications Not German to be Deposited With the Free Library.**

A special meeting of the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society was held June 3 to take action on the removal of the society's collection and library to the Osterhout Library Building. There were present, Gen. Dana, I. R. Ingham, L. C. Paine, R. J. Flick, Rev. H. L. Jones, Rev. H. E. Hayden, Rev. W. F. Watkins Jr., J. W. Hollenback, A. T. McClintock, B. M. Espy, H. C. Davis, G. M. Lewis, Thomas Graeme, G. R. Bedford, G. B. Kulp, O. C. Hillard, M. H. Post, S. C. Struthers, W. J. Flick and F. C. Johnson.

The matter of transferring such portions of the library to the Osterhout Library as the society did not need, had been referred to a committee consisting of Dr. Ingham, Rev. Mr. Hayden and Lawyer Lewis, who reported in elaborate detail, at the same time going, as Chairman Dana said, into matters not contemplated by the appointment. The report awakened a warm discussion, in which it developed that, apart from the report, there was no definite understanding between the Osterhout trustees and the Historical Society and that in each waiting for the other to make advances, there had been absolutely no communication between the two. This was a matter of somewhat remarkable surprise, considering that the two are so made up largely of the same people.

There had as yet been no formal acceptance of the bequest of the late Mr. Osterhout, providing quarters for the society and in accordance with the committee's report, such formal acceptance was made.

The report recommended that in turning over the government publications, the society reserve the power, in the event of a possible separation of the two bodies, to withdraw such deposited books.

Trustee Paine objected to subjecting the Osterhout Library to the risk of having the government publications withdrawn in the event of a separation.

Historiographer Kulp thought the two libraries should be entirely distinct.

G. R. Bedford considered the public documents, as at present kept, as little better than old lumber. The Osterhout Library would have them made accessible by indexing and he was in favor of turning them over to the that body. He thought further that the removal should take place at once in order to save rent.

Mr. Hayden explained that the Historical Society was not the owner of the government publications, but was simply a deposi-

tory, and the government has the power of recalling them at pleasure. As to the delay in removing the cabinet, Mr. Hayden said the Osterhout Library would be cramped for room, and the second story of the annex would not hold half of the cabinet.

Mr. Kulp wanted to have a new building erected at once.

Mr. Hollenback favored making a temporary addition to the church building in order to accommodate the Historical Society, there being 60 feet of land in the rear.

Rev. Mr. Jones, an Osterhout trustee, said the trustees would probably entertain a proposition to build an addition.

Prof. Davis recommended further study of the subject in order to ascertain what accommodations the Osterhout Library can offer the Historical Society for its cabinet and library.

Mr. Bedford recommended a temporary one-story addition of corrugated iron for the cabinet collection.

Judge Dana, who is an Osterhout trustee, thought the discussion was enlarging beyond the proper limit and that the matter in hand was to arrange simply for the temporary accommodation of the Historical Society. The Osterhout trustees know nothing of what the Historical Society wants. No such information had been furnished.

The first resolution, formally accepting the bequest of Mr. Osterhout, was adopted.

The second resolution, specifying that such portions of the library as did not pertain to American history and the scientific branches covered by this society, be turned over to the Osterhout library, was met with a proposition to postpone further action until the Building Committee report.

Gen. Dana said there was a lack of definite information as to what the society wanted. The Building Committee had no information to go by.

It then developed that there had as yet been no conference whatever of the Cabinet Committee with the Osterhout trustees.

Mr. Hayden suggested that they had had no word from the Osterhout trustees.

Trustee Jones thought that the matter of the custody of the government documents and the removal of the books should be decided at once.

Trustee Paine believed the society should waive all claim upon the public documents.

Mr. Kulp feared the Osterhout Library was likely to be only an aggregate of government publications. He believed the situation was becoming magnificently mixed.

Mr. Lewis stated that a minority of the committee favored the transfer of the entire library to the Osterhout Library.

The portion of the report specifying that such portion of the library not embracing





American history, genealogy and the scientific branches coming within the especial scope of the Historical Society, be deposited with the Osterhout Library, to be used for reference purposes, was, after much amending, finally carried. The balance of the report was laid on the table.

Mr. Hollenback moved that the matter of space desired by the society, be laid by the Cabinet Committee before the Osterhout trustees at the earliest possible date, and to report to the society at a special meeting to be called by the chair.

#### "Aqua" in Indian Names.

EDITOR RECORD: I have long noticed the peculiarity of the following names, in each of which the word "aqua" or its phonetic equivalent, appears. I write this with the hope that some of your readers will offer an explanation of the coincidence, if such it may be called, as it appears in the following names:

Aquashicola  
Cataqua  
Tamaqua  
Hokendaqua  
Quakake  
Chillisquaque  
Aquetong  
Kishecoquillas  
Conoquenessing

It is said that the president of a temperance society once gave the following explanation of the origin of Chillisquaque: He stated that the creek was so named in honor of a cold water society which the Indians had formed on its banks. The writer begs to say that any statement of a president of a temperance society, dairyman, or any drug store label will not be accepted in explanation of this phenomena. All others will be thankfully received. C. F. HILL.

Hazleton, May 12.

#### Recalling a Church Building Accident.

[Letter to the Editor.]

By the unfortunate accident at the new Presbyterian Church, we are reminded of the catastrophe that befell the first church erected by that denomination in 1830 upon the site of the present church. Cyrus Gildersleeve had been the pastor of the Congregationalists who worshipped in the old church on the Public Square. The parsonage was in the building now occupied by Agib Ricketts on Northampton Street. Nicholas Murray, a young Irishman, succeeded Mr. Gildersleeve, and under his administration the form of government was changed to Presbyterian, and a frame church was built of the same style as the late church on the Kingston road on the Butler property, now taken down, called Corinthian. John Darken, of

Norwich, England, was the architect. They had raised the frame work of the building, and were hoisting the timbers for the roof when the whole structure collapsed and timbers, boards, plank and some half dozen carpenters went down together into the cellar. The men were badly hurt though none of them were killed. The late Ira Marcy was, I think, one of the injured.

This accident caused the trustees to lose faith in Mr. Darken, and was a great loss to him. He became so discouraged and disheartened that he shortly after left and returned to England, and the church was erected by other contractors. In 1833 Rev. Nicholas Murray was called to Elizabeth, N. J., and Rev. John Dorrance was called to the pastorate and during his ministry the present church was erected in 1850 and '51.

"SCRIBE."

#### Paper a Hundred Years Old.

The committee having in special charge the arrangements for the centennial celebration of Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, June 12-16, have issued an invitation and program which has the charm of antiquity and novelty. The paper on which it is printed is a fine hand-made linen fabric, with rough edges of the real kind, and no modern conceit or imitation. A few hundred sheets of this paper was found in one of the lofts of the old paper mill of J. M. Willcox & Co., near Philadelphia, dismantled some time ago. It had lain there undiscovered during the half century of disuse into which mill and machinery had fallen; these particular sheets upon which the Franklin and Marshall invitations are printed were made during the Revolution to be used for the Continental currency of that period.

Benjamin Franklin, one of the most farsighted statesmen and sagacious publicists of the formative period of our institutions, journeyed from Philadelphia to Lancaster, when far advanced in years, to lay the foundation stone of Franklin College. He was one of its most liberal patrons; and this year, when the college, with imposing literary and musical exercises, will celebrate its centennial, Franklin will have its eulogist in Dr. Wm. Pepper, provost of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, of which also Franklin was founder. Marshall College, founded in 1837 at Mercersburg, was joined with Franklin in 1853; and so the united college has both a centennial and semi-centennial to celebrate. Judge Hughes, of the United States District Court, Virginia, will pronounce the eulogy on Chief Justice Marshall. He is well known as a jurist, orator and disputant, and there is peculiar fitness in the selection of a Virginian for this task.





### Remembering Wyoming's Slain.

A meeting of the Wyoming Commemorative Association was held at the office of the secretary, Alderman Wesley Johnson, on Saturday morning, for the purpose of making arrangements for the annual reunion at the monument on July 3. President Charles Dorrance called the meeting to order. The minutes of last year's meeting were read and approved. On motion of Gen. Dana, seconded by Mr. Johnson, it was

Resolved, That we assemble at the monument at 10 o'clock a.m. July 3, and that after the customary exercises we proceed to the Wyoming Hotel for the usual commemorative dinner, in accordance with a standing resolution of the association.

On motion of Mr. Parsons, Hon. Steuben Jenkins, Payne Pettebone and John M. Stark, Esqs., were named as a committee to arrange the details of the service and also to prepare the grounds and decorate the monument.

On motion of Dr. Hakes, seconded by Mr. Parsons, it was resolved that Rev. A. H. Tuttle be invited to deliver a brief address at the monument.

Gen. Dana and Dr. Hakes were appointed a committee to invite speakers. On motion of Gen. Dana, seconded by Mr. Jenkins, it was

Resolved, That in the death since our last meeting, of Rev. Abel Barker, this association has lost the aid of an earnest, able and cherished associate:

That his presence at every meeting since its first organization, and his warm sympathy in its sacred purposes, have largely contributed to the interest of our meetings, and his absence on this, and our future assemblages, we do, and shall ever, deeply deplore.

Col. Dorrance said in view of the fact that so many of our late co-workers have passed from earth and it may be that others will be called to their final account before we again assemble at our annual meeting, he thought it appropriate and fitting for us to recur to the remarks of our late worthy associate, made upon the occasion of adopting the resolution providing for our annual pilgrimage to the monument grounds. He would therefore ask the secretary to read from the memorial volume the remarks of Mr. Barker made as there reported. Mr. Johnson accordingly read from the book as follows:

Mr. Barker said "It is expected that the inhabitants throughout the valley will display their flags at half-staff in honor of the first anniversary meeting, in this, the beginning of the second century after the battle and massacre, and at each succeeding anniversary thereafter; and it is hoped the custom may be kept up by succeeding genera-

tions until the morning of the 200th year may again call the people to meet at this sacred fane as they did in 1878, to do homage to the noble dead of Wyoming's bloody day. The annual meeting of the survivors of the association, he could not regard but with feelings of mournful anticipation. We are nearly all of us men bordering on the middle age of life, some perhaps having passed the allotted three score years and ten vouchsafed by God unto his creatures. It must inevitably come in the near future of things, and that at no distant day, that some, in fact all of us will be called away to render an account of our stewardships here on earth, and it is with feelings of sadness with which I look forward to the time when the last man, old, tottering and infirm, shall assemble himself in the shadow of the monument, on some hot July morning a few years hence, to partake of his lonely meal and pay a final tribute to the memory of his departed associates."

Dr. Hakes, treasurer of the association, reported that there is an unexpended balance in the treasury of \$1.50, which amount is deposited in the Wyoming National Bank for safe keeping. Col. Dorrance was asked whether he regarded the Wyoming as a safe depository for the funds of the association. He said he thought it was, and the action of the treasurer was approved by the meeting. After some more pleasant chat, of by no means a solemn character, the meeting adjourned, to assemble at the monument on July 2, the 3d being Sunday.

### Died in Colorado.

Thomas Truxton Slocum, died at his home on Slocum Rancho, Platte Canyon, Colorado, May 29th, in the 75th year of his age. He was a descendant of the original Slocums of Slocum Hollow, now Scranton, his father being Benjamin Slocum, brother of Ebener Slocum of the Hollow, and Joseph Slocum of Wilkes-Barre. Mr. Slocum inherited from his ancestor a valuable farm at Tunkhannock, upon which a large portion of the town is now built. When Wyoming County was set off from Luzerne in 1842, he donated the site for the new County buildings. He was a man of enterprise and liberal with his means beyond what was prudent in one who desired to retain unimpaired valuable inheritance. After parting with his farm at a sacrifice he emigrated westward and was for many years a citizen of Kansas; was elected the first Free Soil mayor of Leavenworth and took a prominent part in the anti-slavery agitation of the Territory previous to its admission as a State. He married his wife in Wilkes-Barre, Miss Ann Dennis, a sister of Capt. James P. Dennis, yet living at their mountain home.





### The Late Mr. Lowenberg.

The funeral of the late David Lowenberg, of Bloomsburg, took place June 10. The remains were conveyed to Plymouth on the D. L. & W. R.R., and from that place to South Wilkes-Barre by the D. & H. Co. The funeral train consisted of two special cars, having on board the relatives and friends of deceased and Washington Lodge 265, A. Y. M., of Bloomsburg. Upon the arrival of the train at South Wilkes-Barre the body was transferred to the hearse in waiting, and then conveyed to the Jewish Cemetery in Hanover Township. A large number of Wilkes-Barreans, including many Masons and Odd Fellows, followed the remains to the grave. Rev. Dr. Rundbaken conducted the religious services at the home in Bloomsburg, and at the grave the Masonic ritual was observed. From 10 to 12 o'clock all places of business in Bloomsburg were closed, as a mark of respect to the man who did so much for the community at large without respect to creed or nationality.

Mr. Lowenberg was a relative of Mrs. Simon Long and Joseph Coons. The *Bloomsburg Republican* has the following:

The deceased was one of the leading business men and most public spirited citizens of the community. He was born in Bavaria, Germany, in 1823, his parents being farmers. At an early age he was apprenticed to the trade of cloth-making and at the conclusion of his three years' term he continued his avocation as a journeyman for nine years. In 1848 he emigrated to this country, landing at New York, and after remaining there a short time came to Wilkes-Barre and thence to Bloomsburg in 1860 where he opened a tailoring establishment on the site now occupied by his large wholesale and retail clothing store. Besides giving close attention to business, he found sufficient time to devote to politics and the improvement of the town. In the Buchanan campaign he was chosen chairman of the Democratic County Committee and has frequently since that time served in the same capacity. In 1864 he was a delegate from this district to the Democratic National Convention, and has represented the district at every succeeding convention, except in 1872, when he was a presidential elector. He served as county treasurer in 1870 and 1871. For four successive terms he was chosen president of town council. During the reorganization of the North & West Branch R.R. in 1881, he was a member of the board of directors, and at the time of his death, he was president of the board of trade, treasurer of the Bloomsburg & Sullivan R.R. Co., a member of the board of directors of the N. Y. & W. R.R., Oak Grove Park and one of the trustees of the Normal School. He was also a member

of Washington Lodge of Freemasons, having been initiated in 1853. He leaves to survive him a wife, four sons and three daughters. Of Mr. Lowenberg one has said: "He is of Hebrew descent and religion, but his charity, however, knows no narrow limits of creed or bigotry. No man ever ranked higher in citizenship in this corporate town of Bloomsburg than he. Ever industrious in business and yet so conducting his work as to add to the common stock of knowledge and understanding. Courteous and affable, kind and condescending, he was always considerate of the feelings and wishes of those around him, and extremely jealous in his representative capacity of the rights and interests of all those who imposed confidence in him."

### Death of A. G. Hull.

Areli G. Hull, whose illness was mentioned in the *Record* a few days ago, died at his home, 142 North Franklin Street, on May 28. Mr. Hull was born at Trenton, N. J., Feb. 22, 1826, but soon removed with his parents to Belvidere, N. J., where he learned the tanning trade with his uncle, Jas. R. Hull. After completing his apprenticeship he removed to Bushkill, Pa., where he conducted a successful business for several years, but meeting with financial reverses through unfortunate real estate ventures, he was induced to try a new field and came to Wilkes-Barre in 1876, where he started in the leather and findings business on North Main Street, which he conducted with success to the day of his death. He was a man of strict probity and business integrity and leaves many sympathizing friends to mourn his loss. He was married in 1851 to Miss Emily Tuttle of Hamburg, N. J. A widow and two daughters are all that are left of the family. One daughter, Sarah E., is the wife of H. A. Jacoby, his partner in the business; the other daughter, Hannah, is unmarried, living at home. He became a member of the Presbyterian Church while yet a mere youth and has continued a faithful and active member since, being an elder of Memorial Church at the time of his death and at one time a trustee. The funeral was held at 4 o'clock Tuesday afternoon, services at Memorial Church, interment in Hollenback Cemetery.

### Death of "Auntie" Williams.

The many readers of the *Record*, especially the older ones, will be sorry to learn of the death, on June 10, of Mrs. Annetta Williams, familiarly known as "Auntie" Williams, the old-time hostess of the Bear Creek Hotel, and latterly of the Spring and Prospect Houses. Mrs. Williams came of the ancient Wilkes-Barre stock, her maiden





name being Rogers, her father the much respected in his day Doctor John Rogers, who practiced extensively through the valley sixty years and more ago. Her mother was the sister of 'Squire Sively, sheriff and otherwise prominent in county affairs and the owner of the broad acres now handsomely kept by his granddaughter, Mrs. Judge Pfouts, on the Hanover flats. In 1836, Annetta and her husband, Valentine Wagner, opened the Bear Creek Hotel, on the line of the old stage route from Wilkes-Barre to Easton. This was made the change station of the stage teams, and the early breakfast place for travelers leaving Wilkes-Barre before daylight. In the summer of that year Mr. Wagner was run away with and killed near the old gate house beyond Stoddartsville, and the widow Wagner carried on the establishment for several years on her own resources.

Along in the forties Stiles Williams, a handsome young lumberman from New Jersey, associated with Abram Pierson, started the lumber mills at Bear Creek and in due time induced the widow to doff her weeds. But the hotel was still maintained till the advent of railroads cut off the stage routes and wiped out the Turnpike Company.

In 1859 Mr. Williams sold the Bear Creek property to the late Peter Pursel and with Mrs. Williams moved to the Spring House on the Wilkes-Barre Mountain, where they maintained a summer hotel till his death in 1875.

Mrs. Williams never had any children and leaves no relation nearer than Mrs. Judge Pfouts. She was 78 years old. Death resulted from paralysis.

#### A House a Century Old.

Dr. C. F. Ingham is about to remove another old landmark and to erect in its stead a block of two fine residences to face Union, at the corner of Union and River Streets. The exact date of the building of the present venerable structure is not known, but it must have been at least a hundred years ago. It was built by Rev. Jacob Johnson, first settled minister of the Congregational Church here, before it became Presbyterian in its form of government, and was occupied by his family up to the time of his death, which occurred in March 1797, and for years afterwards was the home of his son, J. P. Johnson, who in about 1826 sold it to Arnold Colt and removed to the mill property at Laurel Run, where he died in 1830. Dr. Ingham has occupied the place for thirty years or more, but the old must make room for the new in the onward march of improvement, and this familiar old home of one of the forefathers of the

hamlet as it was a century ago, and of other generations now passed away, or passing, is doomed to follow. We understand that before demolishing the old building he will have a photograph taken of it as it is in order to preserve a memento of the past for future reference. Architect Kipp pronounces the old house a model of the architecture of its day.

#### Ely Post's Dead.

Adj. R. V. Levers, of Ely Post, G. A. R. has prepared a list of the dead members of the post, with their companies and regiments. The following list, it is believed, is nearly complete, but there may be some who died away from home or who were buried elsewhere whose names have not been learned. If any have been thus overlooked their friends are requested to send their names, with their companies and regiments to R. V. Levers. The list now prepared is as follows:

Albert, Sidney, 52d Pa. Vols.  
 Brisbane, Wm., 49th Pa. Vols.  
 Brecht, Godfried, 112th Pa. Vols.  
 Bogert, Joseph K., 28th Pa. Vols. and U. S. Sig. Corps.  
 Clapsaddle, H. E., 9th Cal. Cav.  
 Cruse, Thomas, 58th Pa. Vols.  
 Dunlap, Robert, 30th Pa. Vols.  
 Dane, Wm. C., 2d Mass. Vols.  
 Davis, Thos. F., 17th Pa. Cav.  
 Eldridge, James, 104th Pa. Vols.  
 Fell, John P., 7th Pa. Res.  
 Finch, Ed. W., 8th and 52d Pa. Vols.  
 Gava, Charles, 177th Pa. Vols.  
 Harkness, T. C., 8th and 81st Pa. Vols.  
 Hibler, S. H., 6th Pa. Cav.  
 Herbert, Wm. K., 77th Pa. Vols.  
 Hunt, Thos. P., 7th Pa. Res. and 8th and 112th Pa. Vols.  
 Hartland, John, 52d Pa. Vols.  
 Hay, Peter, 8th Pa. Vols.  
 Hagenbuch, Abram, 210th Pa. Vols.  
 Higgs, James, 61st Pa. Vols.  
 Killian, John, 9th Pa. Cav.  
 Knoll, Michael, 18th Pa. Vols.  
 Kentner, Joseph, 151st Pa. Vols.  
 Keiler, Henry, 58th N. Y. Vols.  
 Landmesser, N. F., 143d Pa. Vols.  
 Lewis, Josiah L., 143d Pa. Vols.  
 Loch, B. F., 4th N. Y. H. A.  
 Munday, John, 47th Pa. Vols.  
 McNalis, William, 96th Pa. Vols.  
 Moses, William, 177th Pa. Vols.  
 Ossent, Eugene, 41st N. Y. Vols.  
 Plotz, Charles C., 143d Pa. Vols.  
 Pryor, Theodore, 2d Pa. Art.  
 Root, Channey L., U. S. Vet. Res.  
 Ruf, Andrew, 5th N. Y. Vols.  
 Stout, Charles B., 143d Pa. Vols.  
 Speece, L. B., 7th Vet. Res.  
 Tyler, Joseph P., 197th Pa. Vols.





### Doctor Robinson's Grave.

One hundred years ago there was but a single burying place from the head of the Lackawanna to its mouth at Pittston. This was known as Tripp's graveyard, on the edge of Capouse, near the Mt. Pleasant Colliery. There were no public grounds, all were private. In Slocum Hollow the Slocum place was the second, while on the Hyde Park hillside was the third burial ground in the valley. In Dunmore the De Poy was next started. The Griffin, the Hermans, the McDaniels, the Lutz and the Mott grounds were private places for the dead, with no head-stones of marble, and few had common stones reared by tender hands.

Dr. Silas B. Robinson came into the valley in 1823. He was the second physician here. He settled in Providence, where he died in 1860. He was buried in the Tripp place. On the sunny side of the hill under the sighing of a small pine tree, he was buried by the Masons, of which he was a prominent member. His death was sudden. In the evening he visited a patient in the village, returning home he shelled a bushel of corn for his chickens, took a dose of medicine for a cold, went to bed and died within an hour. He was a good man. He never drank or smoked. He always visited his patients on foot, carried his own medicine, and never wrote a prescription in his life. Valerian, soda and herbs made up his *materia medica*, and his patients generally recovered. He belonged to no church, but he knew the Bible by heart and yet he was very profane. His profanity, however, like some men's prayers, never meant any harm. He never had a law suit in his life, and yet this excellent man has no monument or stone to mark the spot where he was laid. It is a shame that this is so. Hiram Lodge of Masons appointed a committee to erect a monument, but as his son Dr. Giles Robinson promised to do it, it was abandoned. Mr. Storrs, of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western RR., promised to remove the remains to Dunmore but thus far nothing has been done. His estate is estimated at \$50,000, and it is a shame that so good a man should be covered up by calm, forgotten and unknown.

By the way, his son, Dr. Giles R., died recently and few knew the cause of his death. In the lower portion of Providence, opposite the blacksmith shop of Mr. Bright, stands a small building where W. W. Winton and the late W. W. Ketchum, D. R. Randall and others once kept school half a century ago. In the winter of 1839 Loren Dewy, an Abingtonian, kept school here and Giles, a lad of fourteen, went to him. Being a mischievous boy, the master jerked him off his seat one day with such violence as to fracture his hip. He never recovered from the

fall. It led to *necrosis*, or death of the bone, and it discharged matter up till the day of his death.—Dr. H. Hollister in *Scranton Truth*.

### "Stella of Lackawanna's" Poems.

There are hundreds of persons in the Wyoming Valley who have read during the passing years the poems appearing in the newspaper press from the pen of Mrs. Harriet Gertrude Watres, better known by her non de plume of "Stella of Lackawanna." Mrs. Watres was a sister of Dr. H. Hollister, of Providence, the celebrated physician antiquary. Senator L. A. Watres is a son and it is through his efforts that his mother's writings now come to the public in book form. Mrs. Watres was a noble woman, whose life was crowded with loving deeds, and a friend has truly and poetically described her as—

"Loving the loveless and lonely,  
Binding the bruises of scorn."

The book is now being canvassed for in Wilkes-Barre and we feel sure that our readers who purchase it, as well as those who do not, will be interested in the following review of its contents by Will S. Monroe, who has been writing a series of articles in the *Scranton Argus* descriptive of the poets of Wyoming Valley and contiguous territory:

Mrs. Harriet Gertrude Watres, the sense of whose loss is so fresh upon us, was by nature singularly sweet and musical and her poems sing of themselves. She sang as the birds—in pure, serene and hymn-like roundelays—and her songs are as sincere and genuine as those of the sylvan minstrels, possessing all the hilarity of the bobolink, the faith of the song-sparrow, the love of the blue-bird, and the spiritual serenity of the hermit-thrush. Finished and original in style, delicate in sentiment, fertile in imagination, and musical in expression, Mrs. Watres was a poet of high order, and her verses rank with the very best yet produced by Wyoming Valley singers. *Cobwebs*, a volume containing one hundred and twenty-five short poems, was recently published by D. Lothrop & Co., of Boston, and its merits cannot but impress the most careless reader. "Barefoot" illustrates how well she succeeded in investing common ideas with new charms; and in "Caged" her rich imagination arises to the sphere of the true ideal. Deep pathos and refined humor are always nicely wedded. At every shoaling in the serious stream of "The Quarrel," "Through the Keyhole," and "Ripe Cherries," a vigilant sense of humor ripples. "Woodland Friends" and "My Cottage Home" exhale the fresh breath of a May orchard; and "Love's Loss" and "Lu-





line" contain all the sweetness and melody, and much of the genuine touch of true poetry. Her melody is so perfect, that were not these pleasant fancies as philosophical as they are musical, I should be inclined to charge their author with singing simply for the music's sake, but combined with all this melody is a depth of rare thought and fine poetical imagery. "Bret Harte" and "Snow Birds" are genial poems, and the former is constructed with remarkable ingenuity. In "Twice waiting," "Rae," and "Faces on the Street," she manifests a thorough understanding of the language of natural emotions and a profound knowledge of the reserves and refinement of poetic art. Few writers have better succeeded in blending exquisite melody with serene, satisfying and uplifting sentiment, or given us a finer adjustment of word to thought; and with an ever changing variety of measure, she not unfrequently interests the reader quite as much in the treatment of a subject as in the subject itself. To those who know the worth of her poetry it is a matter of regret that she is not more generally read; but until the people of culture in this rich valley come to realize the genuine work which in obscurity and discouragement the few are doing for its honor, neither the local writers nor their friends need feel that popular neglect signifies merited condemnation.

#### Chandler Genealogy.

Prof. Swithin Chandler Shortlidge gave a dinner at Media, recently, to representatives of the descendants of George and Jane Chandler, who came from England 200 years ago and settled on the Brandywine. An association was formed to arrange for the celebration of the bi-centennial of their arrival, with the following officers: President, Dr. Swithin Chandler, of Delaware; Vice Present, Dr. Ellwood Harvey, of Chester; Recording Secretary, J. Shortlidge; Corresponding Secretaries, Prof. S. C. Shortlidge and Alfred N. Chandler; Treasurer, Dr. Joseph H. Chandler, of Delaware. The celebration will be held at the original Chandler homestead, which is on the Brandywine Creek, partly in Delaware and partly in Pennsylvania. A genealogy of the family is being prepared by Gilbert Cope, of West Chester.—*North Wales Record*.

Alfred N. Chandler, whose name is mentioned above, held a position a few years ago with the Western Union Telegraph Co., in this city. He is now among the Philadelphia bulls and bears, of Third Street.

#### Errata.

EDITOR RECORD: It is not often that I interfere to attempt corrections in historical articles written by persons who are presumed to know what they are writing about, but there are two articles in the March, 1887, number of the *Historical Record* that I feel I cannot pass by without an attempt to correct what I believe to be errors. One of these articles is on "the late Abi Slocum Butler" and the other on that entitled "A former Wilkes-Barrean dead."

In the first article it is stated that "Lord, the eldest son of Col. Zebulon Butler, was born in 1770." He had held various positions of a public character before 1790 and was then a member of the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania. He must have been more than 20 years of age at this time, most probably about 30, and hence would have been born as early as 1760. It is further stated that he married Mary, granddaughter of Abel Peirce. She was the daughter of Abel Peirce and granddaughter of Maj. Ezekiel Peirce, the famous town clerk.

In the second article relating to John S. Madden, it is stated that he moved to Wilkes-Barre in 1833, where he remained until 1844. The fact is he removed to Wyoming in 1833, where he carried on the business of tailoring for a year or two, and then removed to Plymouth, where he married a daughter of Robert Davenport, deceased, and from there he moved to Bradford County in 1844. He was never a Wilkes-Barrean. Mr. Madden was a sterling man in every respect—of keen intellect—well informed upon public topics—a sharp conversationalist,—and of great energy and efficiency in business affairs. S. JENKINS.

#### New York Currency in 1754.

[Letter to the Editor.]

In the March number of your historical magazine is an article copied from Dr. Hollister's article in *Scranton Truth* which says that at the treaty with the Indians in 1754 the Connecticut Susquehanna Company paid the Indians two thousand pounds in silver, New York currency, and that that was equal to \$10,000. This latter is of course a mistake. A shilling in New York currency was twelve and a half cents, and it took eight of them to make a dollar. Consequently two thousand pounds in that currency would be only \$5,000, instead of \$10,000. I think the Dr. hardly made that mistake. Perhaps it was the compositor in the *Truth* office—and that he thought he ought to correct the Dr. However, if New York currency was at that time more valuable than the same number of pounds in English sterling money, I would like to have





the doctor explain the matter so that one like me can understand it. The doctor was brought up in a part of the country where no other currency was used in amounts less than two dollars and fifty cents, and he, if any one, ought to know. They used almost if not quite universally such terms as these—two shillings, six shillings, nine shillings, twelve shillings, and all the intermediate numbers. The equivalents in United States money of the above was: 25 cents, 75 cents; \$1.12½, \$1.50, \$2.25, and \$2.50. This last would be one pound, New York currency.

Askam, May 10, 1887. H. B. P.

#### The Moravians in the Wyoming Valley.

[The following extracts are from the diary of the Moravian Indian missionary, John Martin Mack, who in the summer of 1748, in company with David Zeisberger, visited the Indians residing on the North and West Branches of the Susquehanna. Mack's first visit to the Wyoming Valley was made in the autumn of 1742, with Zinzendorf and suite, and while stationed Gnadenhuetten on the Mahoning, between 1746 and 1755, he made frequent journeys along the Susquehanna in the interests of the missions of his church. These extracts relate to that part of their journey from Shamokin to Wyoming and thence to Gnadenhuetten, and treat of the famine then prevailing in the Indian country. They are furnished the RECORD by John W. Jordan, of Philadelphia.]

*July 22, 1748.* Set out early this morning up the North Branch. At noon lost the path,—we took the path that leads into the woods, which the Indians take on their hunts,—but towards evening recovered the right trail. Camped on a hill by the river. It began to rain so hard, and the water swept down the hillside so strongly, that we feared we would be washed into the river. We had no hut, as we could get no bark.

*July 23.* Continued on our journey through the rain. Towards noon as we approached a town, we were met by a drunken Indian. It proved to be a Tutelar town, and when we entered it in hopes of drying our clothes by a fire, we found everybody drunk. We went on for a few miles, built a fire and dried and warmed ourselves. By evening reached Nescopeck in a heavy rain. The people took us across the river in a canoe, but we found but few at home: those there, however, were acquainted with Brother Mack. We were given a hut, but nothing to eat, and after drying ourselves retired for the night.

*July 24.* Remained here for the day. Our host cooked some wild beans, of which we partook, and we gave him some of our bread. The Indians have gone to the settlements to procure food.

*July 25.* Journeyed on along the river to Wamphallobank, [Wapwallopen,] stopping there a few hours, but found only one family at home, who boiled the bark of trees for food. Famine had driven all the others to the white settlements. Proceeded up to Wajomick, [Wyoming,] and by evening came to the lower end of the flats, where we passed the night.

*July 26.* Arose early and went up the flats. On coming to the first huts, found only a man and his wife at home and some decrepit old people, scarcely able to move. They complained of their need, of the want of food and of imminent starvation. We lodged at one of the huts.

*July 27.* Crossed the river and visited the Nanticokes, who moved here last Spring from Chesapeake Bay, and found them clever and modest people. Their young people, they said, had been gone several weeks to the white settlements to procure provisions. In the evening the Nanticokes set us over the river and we went to our lodgings. Visited some old people, among them a man who had collected wood to make a fire, but was so emaciated that he had to crawl on his hands and knees. Bro. Mack took the fagots into his hut and made a fire, much to the gratitude of the aged invalid.

*July 28.* This morning our host was busy painting himself. He painted his face all red, striped his shirt with the same color and also his moccasins. He volunteered to accompany us a few miles to point out the best crossing over the Susquehanna. Set out on our return, passing Wamphallobank, and thence over the country, crossing Wolf Mountain to Gnadenhuetten, where we arrived on 30 July.

#### The Merediths.

Samuel Meredith, who was Treasurer of the United States under Washington from 1789 to 1801, removed to northern Pennsylvania in 1812, where he made great improvements at a place he named Belmont, in Wayne county, and where he died in 1817.

He was buried with no monument to mark his grave, and it was not until Dr. Hollister, the veteran antiquarian of Scranton, called public attention to this fact in 1878 through the columns of the *Scranton Republican*, that the people of Mt. Pleasant took care of his grave. His son Thomas removed from Belmont to a spot about one mile below Cambondale, where he died, leaving a son Samuel, who died in Philadelphia, at the almshouse.

Dr. Hollister, in a letter to the *Scranton Truth*, says that "B. F. Sager, of Peckville, has in his possession a rare and interesting





relic. It is an old and curious gentleman's dressing case which once belonged to Samuel Meredith, the first Treasurer of the United States under Washington, from 1789 to 1801. Washington and Meredith were great friends, and it is probable that the case was used by the General when he visited him in former years. When Meredith died in 1817 at Belmont, Wayne Co., Pa., where he had an immense possession of land, this dressing case passed into the hands of his son, Thomas Meredith, who removed to a wild place in the woods a mile below Carbondale, where it was carefully preserved by the family for many years. After the death of Thomas, his son Samuel came into the possession of this antique piece of furniture which did not suit his fancy, not being modern enough, when he rebuilt the old mansion. He stored it awhile in his barn, and finally gave it to his neighbor and friend, Mrs. Sophia Sager. Upon the death of Mrs. Sager some years ago, her son took possession of this relic, which he prizes highly. It is built from curl maple, ingeniously carved, has four drawers, and is in an excellent state of preservation. It is the oldest dressing case in the valley.

#### Old Church Recollections.

In the RECORD of June 3 a communication signed "Scribe" recalled an accident that occurred during the building of the church erected by the Presbyterian congregation in 1830. The item came to the notice of J. T. Bennett, of Egan, Dakota, who has written his recollections of the occurrence to H. B. Plumb, and through his courtesy we copy the following:

"I have seen the piece in the RECORD written by 'Scribe.' He thinks Ira Marcy was in the first church. When John Darken was raising the roof all went down. Earl Barnes was in the fall and Ira Marcy was at work on a bridge across a creek on the opposite side of the Susquehanna from Berwick. John Darken left the work and Uncle Henry Blackman took it to finish. Darius Finch took the job of putting up the walls of the basement, which he did all in cut stone. He threw away all of the wall that the building was first raised on. I was with Uncle Henry Blackman at the commencement and until the church was finished. Ira, Reuben and Avery Marcy were all there. Ira had one of his eyes injured when a child by a fork in untying a shoestring, and he had this eye knocked out while on the roof by a broken piece of shingle. This was in 1832.

"Thomas H. Parker and Ashbel Barnett were the men that began the brick church on the site where the first church stood. Parker died and Barnett returned to New Jersey. D. A. Fell and Earl Barnes then took the job and finished it.

"The Methodists first bought the old church on Public Square of the Presbyterians. The latter then bought it back while their church was building. I took all the old big high box seats out of the old church and put in new seats and a new pulpit. This was shortly after I finished building Sylvester Dana's academy. I was a looker on when the old church on Public Square was taken down. The tower was cut off above the roof and fell point downward.  
J. T. BENNETT."

#### Two Lackawanna Old Settlers.

Lackawanna County has two aged citizens whose recollections are clear as to events in the early part of the century.

William Fogg, colored, was born in Connecticut, and will soon be 94 years of age. He has lived in Scott Township since 1811. Mr. Fogg remembers distinctly going at one time with an old horse to Judge Shoemaker's in the Wyoming Valley, with a few pounds of maple sugar, which he exchanged for a bushel of corn. The next year he chopped and burned a fallow and planted corn among the stumps and logs.

Samuel Gardner was born in the Wyoming Valley Oct. 12, 1798. He is at present a resident of Ransom.

#### Fourth of July in 1827.

Capt. James P. Dennis, who ranks now among the oldest inhabitants from way-back, was in town Saturday, and in conversation gave the following account of how the 4th of July was celebrated 60 years ago in Wilkes-Barre as he saw it:

"The day was ushered in by the booming of cannon and the ringing of bells at sunrise. At eight or nine o'clock, upon the Public Square, the people assembled. A long arbor was built and covered with green boughs. A table was put in occupying its whole length. They then raised a large liberty pole. Some religious services were held, the Declaration of Independence was read, and then all the male portion of assembled people joined hands and marched around the pole to the tune of some patriotic song. I remember one stanza of a song sung by the late Hon. Andrew Beaumont in excellent style and much force, a stirring tune:

"The British yoke, the Gallic chain,  
Was forged upon our necks in vain.  
All haughty tyrants we'll disdain,  
And shout long live America."

"In the meantime the long tables in the arbor had been lavishly covered with such good eatables as the country afforded, and supplied by the patriotic ladies of the neighborhood. Then came the dinner and the toasts and speeches. One toast I recollect, 'The Enemies of our Country—May they be mounted on porcupine saddles on rough-riding horses and never-ending journeys.'"





## THE EVENTFUL DAY

In the History of Wyoming Duly Commemorated—A Tribute to the Wives and Mothers of 1778—The Flight from the Stricken Valley.

The exercises commemorative of the battle and massacre of Wyoming were held at the foot of the monument on Saturday forenoon. The base of the monument was decorated with baskets and vases of flowers and an American flag floated from a staff at the entrance. Some of the private houses in Wyoming were also decorated with the American colors. The day was intensely hot but a delicious breeze played around the monument, so that beneath its shade and that of the surrounding trees the assemblage managed to keep comfortable. The grounds had been made ready by Payne Pettebone, who lives near by and whose sprinkling wagon was set to work laying some of the dust.

At 10:30 Col. Dorrance called the meeting to order. He is 82 years of age and has been the president of the Wyoming Commemorative Association since its inception. The colonel's remarks were singularly appropriate and impressive, even eloquent. Though his bodily powers naturally feel the tooth of time his mind is as clear as a bell and his utterances were characterized by force and feeling, piety and patriotism and at times were aglow with the fires of native oratory.

Capt. Calvin Parsons offered prayer and the assemblage, led by Hon. Steuben Jenkins and Mr. Parsons, sang "Before Jehovah's awful throne," to the tune of "Oid Hundred."

The address of the day followed by W. A. Wilcox, E-q., of the bars of Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties, his subject being "The Flight from Wyoming." Passing by the oft-told story of the battle and massacre, Mr. Wilcox gave the after-scenes, and traced the escape of the fugitives by the several routes open to them—down the Susquehanna by rafts and boats, others on foot across the mountains by the "Warriors' Path" and down the Lehigh, and still others through the "Shades of Death" and across the Pocono to the Delaware River. True they were not in the battle and their names were not on the monument, but theirs was the agony of suspense; they had taught their husbands and sons patriotism; they showed a fortitude, a faith and a power of endurance that brought final success even after defeat. Many graphic incidents were given and a lofty tribute was paid to the escaping women, some of whom suffered the pains of maternity in the mountain wilds. Sunbury could be reached by canoes in 24 hours, Stroudsburg, then Fort Penn,

in 2 or 3 days, and a fortnight was required in which to reach Connecticut.

Mr. Wilcox's paper was warmly applauded and he was congratulated upon having worked up one of the mere incidents of the battle into so admirable a sketch. Though to a certain extent a compilation the paper also contained original matter, the author having evidently availed himself of the unpublished historical data in the possession of Mr. Jenkins, whose son-in-law Mr. Wilcox is. We hope to reproduce the paper, or portions of it, in subsequent issues.

Gen. Edmund L. Dana was called on by Chairman Dorrance. He expressed his pleasure at the paper just read. From what he had seen of war, the battle was not the great thing. Ten times as many die of privations, wounds and exposure as there are killed in battle. Judge Dana pictured the long sufferings and trials of patience and courage before and after the fight. For months before, peril rested over this community. There was a war cloud in the north and they knew not when it would burst. The settlers were cut off from help, their able bodied men were in the Continental Army and cries for aid in that direction met with no response. Imagine the night and day before the final shock, the march out of the fort to meet an overwhelming foe, the sad farewells. The women nerved the men to action and never counseled flight. Had the women dissuaded the men they would have blotted out one of the brightest chapters in the history of the world. The heroism of the women of Wyoming was a part of unwritten history.

Payne Pettebone indulged in some interesting reminiscences of his boyhood days, comparing wages of 1827 with that of 1887.

Dr. Hakes said we are a trifling people and there was a lamentable and growing absorption in base ball, horse races and slugging matches, to the exclusion of things which elevate. On occasions like this it was not expected there would be many to take an interest, but he would rather meet 40 or 50 people filled with patriotism and noble thoughts than to see that many thousand drawn together by idle curiosity or to gratify some brutal or degraded instinct. He, too, paid a tribute to the women of Wyoming and said that for sterling worth, industry, piety, charity and patriotism they have never been excelled.

Secretary Wesley Johnson was called upon to report. Among other things he made some feeling allusions to the continued infirmity of Dr. H. Hollister, one of the most able and efficient members of the association, and then read the following communication received from him a few days previous to the meeting:





SCRANTON, June 18, 1887.—Gentlemen of the Wyoming Commemorative Association: I regret that I cannot be with you any more in person at your annual meeting July 3, but I am glad to know that you are able to meet in health and properly commemorate this sad day, that above all in the history of the country will rank first to be remembered by the old patriotic sons and daughters of Wyoming.

Squire Johnson then referred to the fact that it was just ten years since the Association held its first meeting, and that the officers had remained the same ever since. Of the original members of the executive committee we still have Dorrance, Jenkins, Hollister, Dana, Parsons and Pettebone among the living, while there have gone from among us Wright, Wisnor, Atherton, Coray, Gordon and Barker, the last having died since our last meeting here. Thus it will be seen that within the first decade after the formation of the association about one-half its members have crossed the line. How long will it be at this rate before the last man, old and infirm, will assemble here on some future July morning to redeem his promise to make this annual pilgrimage to the common grave of our patriotic ancestors?

The chairman called upon F. C. Johnson of the Record, for some remarks, he inviting those present having old family letters, documents, or anything interesting concerning the early history of the valley to forward copies of originals to him for publication and thus save for the future much of the unwritten history that would otherwise be lost.

The patriotic hymn "America" was sung after which an adjournment was had to Laycock's hotel where a sumptuous dinner was served, Capt. Parsons presiding, in the absence of Col. Dorrance who was not feeling well enough to attend.

After dinner Mrs. Judge Pfouts gave a most thrilling account of the escape of her grandmother, wife of Capt. Stewart, who was killed in the battle, how the family passed down the river to Harrisburg and found shelter among sympathizing friends and relatives, as she had heard the story from the lips of the old lady.

The meeting, though not large, was a pleasant and enjoyable one, and the association adjourned to meet on July 3 of next year.

#### Caleb E. Wright's Latest Novel.

The author of "A Legend of Bucks County" will need no introduction to Record readers, for he is a former Wilkes-Barrean. We refer to Caleb E. Wright, Esq., now of Doylestown. He is not a novice at novel writing, as his "Tale of Wyoming," "Marcus Blair" and "On the Lackawanna" abundantly attest. It is safe to say that the new one suffers in nowise in comparison with its predecessors, either in

literary excellence or in ingenuity of plot. Like all of Mr. Wright's novels it is to a certain extent founded on fact. While it is a "love story" it deals with something more and gets down into the home life of our ancestors in a manner that makes it fascinating in the extreme.

The scene is laid in Old Bucks and is doubtless based upon actual occurrences in that county a century ago. Just what foundation it has in fact would be interesting to know. The places in the story are actual and it is to be presumed that not a few of the present dwellers in Bucks can recognize their ancestors in Mr. Wright's fascinating tale.

The plot is so skillfully created that the reader is afforded constant surprises. An interest is awakened in the opening chapters, impelling the reader not to lay it down until the finish is reached. The writer of this review of the novel read it at a single sitting.

The title is not "taking" enough to suggest the value of the book as a work of fiction. Had it been named for its hero, "Bonnayville Cresson, or a Legend of Bucks County," it would have been a much more attractive title for the shop shelves. However, there are so many books with attractive covers and poor contents we can well afford to pardon Mr. Wright for reversing the order and making the contents the principal thing in this creature of his brain and pen.

Mr. Wright's career as a lawyer furnishes him admirable material for the prosecution and conviction of his badly-treated hero and it is quite in keeping with the author's fondness for the church of his choice, to picture the hero as becoming an itinerant preacher and stirring camp meeting with such fervid pleadings as to bring hardened sinners weeping to the altar. The introduction of Gen Washington in the opening chapter, where he compliments the little waif, Bon, on his success in winning a foot race is among the happier minor incidents, but not more so, perhaps, than is the last, where the orphan boy, having overcome all the obstacles in the way of his advancement, having proven himself innocent of the crime charged against him in his younger days, having acquired wealth and fame, is vindicated before the world and is at last united to the object of his love, the wedding guests including Washington himself.

The book is deserving of a generous patronage for its inherent worth. We understand, also, that it is a present from Mr. Wright to his printer friend, B. McGinty, of Doylestown, who is to have the proceeds of sales. Consequently every purchase will go to swell the exchequer of a deserving but not overly wealthy printer. The price is \$1.25 and the book is on sale at Brown's.





## LAYING THE CORNER STONE

Of a New Edifice for one of the Oldest  
Congregations in Wyoming Valley—  
Address by Rev. Dr. Parke.

The impressive services of laying the cornerstone for the new First Presbyterian Church took place on the floor of the new building on the corner of Northampton and Franklin Streets Monday, July 11, at 6 pm. There were many of the members present, the weather being clear and pleasant.

The services began with singing of the doxology after which Rev. R. B. Webster made an invocation. Rev. Caspar R. Gregory read a scripture lesson and all present joined Dr. Hodge in repeating the creed.

The address was delivered by Rev. N. G. Parke, D. D., of Pittston, who said, after some pleasant introductory remarks:

The men and the women who came to Wyoming Valley a hundred years ago to make for themselves and children homes, had been trained intellectually and religiously in the schools and the churches of New England, and they were not wanting in the courage and thrift and godliness of their Puritan fathers.

They have long since passed away, but their works abide as evidence that they were God fearing people. They founded the First Presbyterian Church of Wilkes-Barre, called a minister of Christ to labor among them, the Rev. Jacob Johnson. And as soon as they were able built for themselves a sanctuary. That sanctuary was still standing in 1844 when I first came to Wilkes-Barre, and with its tall gracefully tapering spire, was pointing heavenward. Old Michael, the faithful sexton of the church for almost half a century, still rung the curfew bell in true New England style, greatly to the disgust of some young people who were not prepared to go home at nine o'clock.

That church on the Green, the first completed sanctuary in the valley, was a union church for the accommodation of all denominations. The Presbyterians in 1829 called the Rev. Nicholas Murray to be their pastor, became in form, what they had previously been in fact, a Presbyterian organization, and with the help of the Presbyterians of New Jersey, built themselves a new house of worship on Franklin street.

During the pastorate of the Rev. Dr. John Dorrance, who succeeded Dr. Murray, the brick house in which you have been worshipping for nearly fifty years was erected.

Wilkes-Barre has become a city of large wealth and palatial homes. In her commercial prosperity the First Presbyterian Church has shared largely and her sons and daughters have determined to manifest their gratitude

to the giver of all mercies by erecting a new sanctuary, adapted in all respects to the needs of the congregation and worthy of the Wilkes-Barre of 1887. In this, we believe they have acted wisely. And we are here to-day to lay the corner-stone of the building and to pray that He who has put it into their hearts to build, may dwell in the building when it is complete; and that here in days to come many sons and daughters may be born into the kingdom of God.

Money expended in the building of sanctuaries where the gospel is preached and God is worshiped is well spent. Material prosperity divorced from religion is a questionable blessing. It is sanctified wealth that beautifies and glorifies a city, and that brings with it joy and peace and blessings to our hearts and homes. It is this type of wealth that abides. The wealth of parents does not always come to their children, and when it does come to them it does not always prove a blessing. But grace is in a measure entailed, transmitted. It descends from generation to generation, unto the thousandth generation. You, the members of the First Presbyterian Church of Wilkes-Barre, are to-day reaping a harvest from the sowing of a hundred years ago, and this whole community shares in this harvest. We are, under God, what our father and mother of a hundred years ago made us.

This old Presbyterian Church, of Wilkes-Barre, among the oldest, if not the oldest church organized in this valley, with a history intensely interesting, closely interwoven with the early settlement of this part of Pennsylvania, has been a power for good in all this region. Quietly, but steadily, in a conservative way, it has helped to develop and cultivate what is good in man and to restrain "the evil," by maintaining the ordinances of God's house and by seeking to bring men to a knowledge of the truth as it is in Christ.

This church has been fortunate in many ways. There have been in it many noble Christian men and women who have held up the hands of the servants of God, who have stood on these walls of Zion, around whose memories there still abides a sweet aroma. Your pastors have not been common men. Those who have led you for the past fifty years, it has been my privilege to know personally. Of Marsh and Johnson and Taylor and Molton, I know nothing except what our historians tell us. The Rev. Cyrus Gildersleeve, whose pastorate commenced here in 1819 and antedates my knowledge of you, was a missionary who looked carefully after the widely scattered sheep of the flock. He preached in Wilkes-Barre, Kingston, Hanover, Northmoreland, Pittston, Provi-





dence and Tunkhannock. The Rev. Nicholas Murray who succeeded him was one of the strong men of our church, in the pulpit and in our ecclesiastical courts, but without the missionary spirit of his predecessor. He limited his labor to Wilkes-Barre. The Rev. John Dorrance, "to the manor born," and with a large amount of Puritan blood in his veins, was an earnest preacher, a wise counselor and a thorough organizer. He laid the foundations of the Presbyterian churches in Ashley, Shickshinny, Plymouth Lackawanna, Pittston and Scranton. He made an earnest effort to establish a Presbyterian Academy at Wyoming and for your flourishing Ladies Seminary at Wilkes-Barre you are largely indebted to him. Personally I was in a position to know that his plans of work took in this whole region. He was not an Episcopal Bishop but he was a Bishop who had a supervision of all the churches in the county. Of the lamented Dr. A. A. Hodge, who succeeded Dr. Dorrance I need not speak. Surely you have reason to be thankful that you have been permitted to sit under his preaching. While with a measure of pride you point to him as your former pastor, you have been and still are fed with the finest of the wheat. And let me just remind you that of those to whom much has been given much will be required.

Allow me in conclusion to congratulate the representatives here assembled, of the First Presbyterian Church of Wilkes-Barre, on the prospect of a speedy realization of the hopes inspired by the laying of the corner stone. We love to see our honored mother, of whom we are confessedly proud, renewing her strength, if not her age, as the years roll by.

At the conclusion of Dr. Parke's address George R. Bedford, Esq., read a list of the contents of the corner stone, as follows: One Bible, one Confession of Faith, minutes of the General Assembly of 1886, history of the church, by Sheldon Reynolds, Esq.; officers of the church, including pastor, trustees, deacons, building committee, session, architect and builder, organist and choir; list of communicants, list of officers and teachers of the church Sabbath school, list of officers and teachers of South Wilkes-Barre Mission Sabbath School and list of officers and teachers of Grant Street Sabbath School, sermon preached in 1876 by Rev. W. S. Parsons on the history of the Sunday School; photograph of the old church taken July 9, 1887, and of the interior taken Christmas, 1886; history of the Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society of the church and its members; daily and religious papers and city directory; officers and committees of Men's Association

for Christian Work of First Presbyterian Church.

Dr. Hodge then performed the service of laying the corner stone of a house dedicated to the worship of God in the manner of the Presbyterian Church of North America, concluding with prayer. All present sang "All hail the power of Jesus' name," after which the benediction was pronounced by Rev. Horace G. Miller, of the Church of the Covenant.

#### Historical Society Meeting.

The rain is to blame for a very slim attendance at the special meeting of the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society in their rooms on South Franklin Street Tuesday, June 21. The members present were Judge Dana, president, Dr. Ingham, George B. Kulp, Esq. and G. Mortimer Lewis, Esq. The meeting was not formally called to order, but a general discussion was had in reference to the proposition to move into the rear portion of the Osterhout Library building. Mr. Lewis read a report of the committee on repairs, which will be presented at the next meeting of the society.

A highly satisfactory bid, Mr. Lewis said, has been received from Contractor Shepherd, who agrees to furnish all necessary repairs and the cases for the cabinet at a total cost of \$977. The bookcases, which will be located on the ground floor of the present lecture room, will be constructed of oak or ash, with glass doors, for \$2 and \$2.50 a running foot. It was roughly estimated that the society library will demand 80 feet, the cases being 7 feet high.

Considerable difference of opinion was manifest as to the desirability of removing the possessions of the society to the custody of the Osterhout library. Mr. Kulp was strongly of the opinion that it would mean a stragulation and annihilation of the society. Dr. Ingham evidently thought that it would be a case of miscegenation that would seriously impair the stamina of the society, and that it would mean its eventual absorption by the Osterhout library. Mr. Lewis, on the contrary, believed that the society would find adequate room in the Osterhout addendum for its books and cabinet. Judge Dana, who spoke with authority, being an Osterhout trustee, observed that the clause in Mr. Osterhout's will, charging the trustees to provide adequate quarters for the Historical Society, would be carried out to the letter. A majority of the trustees are members of the society and have its interests clearly in view. He thought that in as much as the society is now crowded it could make no wiser move than to take advantage of the Osterhout bequest of quarters.





**Death of Rev. George D. Stroud.**

The sudden, though not wholly unexpected death of Rev. George D. Stroud, rector of St. James' Parish, Pittston, occurred at the rectory at 6 o'clock pm. on June 29, and has cast a gloom over all the circles in which he has moved. In his death the church has lost a devout and useful servant, the community a valued member, the State an exemplary citizen, and the Grand Army a loved and respected comrade and chaplain. The funeral services will be held at St. James' Church to-morrow (Friday) at 11:30 o'clock in the forenoon and the remains and cortege will move thence by train to Philadelphia, where the interment will take place in Germantown. Those friends who desire to take a last look upon the features of the deceased can do so by calling at the rectory by or before 10 o'clock am. The coffin will not be opened at the church.—*Pittston Press, Thursday.*

The funeral service over the late Rev. George D. Stroud took place in St. John's Episcopal Church, Pittston, July 1, Rev. D. Webster Coxe, of West Pittston, and Rev. Henry L. Jones, of Wilkes-Barre, officiating. The pallbearers were G. A. R. men, deceased having been chaplain of the post in Pittston. The body was taken by the noon train to Germantown for interment. In its biographical sketch the *Gazette* says:

Mr. Stroud, though but 46 years old, had a very large experience. He was a soldier of the late war and was conspicuous for enterprise and bravery. He was quartermaster's sergeant in the 6th Pa. Cavalry, Rush's Lancers, and was mustered out in 1862. He was captain of the 20th Pennsylvania Cavalry in 1863, served his time and in 1864 he organized a company of independent cavalry and was mustered out at the close of war. He was a past commander in the Grand Army of the Republic, present chaplain of Nugent Post, and past chaplain of a Philadelphia Post. He was a soldier in every sense of the word, and always felt an active interest in whatever pertained to the history of the war. Deceased undertook mission work after ordination as a priest of the Episcopal Church at Towanda, where he had three charges. He was rector of St. Peter's at Tonkhanock in 1883. He spent the following year in Philadelphia in an effort to cure a local affliction, and subsequently took charge of St. James' Parish. He proved an acceptable pastor and added greatly to the strength and piety of the church by his earnest work and christian example. He leaves a wife, three daughters and a son as survivors.

Mr. Stroud's ailment was of long standing complicated with brain fever. His death leaves the pulpit of St. James vacant.

**Mrs. Cornelia Butler Dead.**

The friends of Mrs. Cornelia Richards Butler who had seen her in apparent health but a few weeks ago, will be shocked to hear of her death which occurred on Tuesday evening, July 12. Though of advanced age Mrs. Butler bore her years with surprising strength and was not considered to be in failing health until within a few weeks.

Mrs. Butler was born in December 1801 at Farmington, Hartford County, Conn. In 1826 she married Col. John Lord Butler, who died at Wilkes-Barre in August 1858, since which time she has lived at the house of her son-in-law Judge Stanley Woodward, where her death took place.

Mrs. Butler came of Revolutionary stock, her father, Samuel Richards, having been captain of a company in the Connecticut line throughout the war. Capt. Richards marched with his company from Farmington to Boston in time to take part in the Battle of Bunker Hill. He kept a journal of each day's events during his entire service, the journal being still in the possession of his granddaughter who naturally regards it as a precious relic. Capt. Richards was also a member of the Society of the Cincinnati organized by officers of the American Army and composed now of their lineal descendants.

Mrs. Butler's mother was Sarah Welles, daughter of Jonathan Welles, of Glastonbury, Conn., and a sister of Rosewell Welles who was admitted to the bar of this county in 1787, the year of its organization.

Mrs. Butler was an eminently pious woman of most lovable character. She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in whose Sabbath School she had been a teacher for more than half a century, her long service being honored, on her retirement in 1880, by a beautiful testimonial from the members of the Sabbath School. She was a constant reader and diligent student of the Bible and read the revised Old Testament through during the last year of her life. She was perhaps as widely known and respected as any woman in Wilkes-Barre and the close of her long and faithful life will be generally mourned.

Mrs. Butler had four children, Frank, Chester, Sarah and Emily, all but one of whom survive. Chester died while pursuing his studies at college. Frank is a resident of Virginia, but was present at his mother's bedside during her illness. Miss Emily Butler resides with her sister, Mrs. Stanley Woodward.

**Mrs. Butler's Funeral.**

The funeral services of the late Mrs. Cornelia Butler took place at the residence of Judge Woodward July 14 at 5 pm. The parlor and hall were filled with friends who





were present to pay the last token of respect, while many listened to the service from the porches.

Dr. Hodge read from the 90th Psalm, "Lord, thou hast been our dwelling-place in all generations," and Dr. Parke read the 15th chapter of I Corinthians. The choir of the First Presbyterian Church, Mrs. Shearn, Miss James and Messrs. Hartland and Evans, sang appropriate hymns. Dr. Hodge offered prayer, rendering thanks for the life which had shown so plainly the indwelling of God's spirit, praying that the example thus set before so many present might not be lost.

The pall-bearers were four of the elders of the church, A. T. McClintock, Esq., N. Butler, R. J. Flick and John Welles Hollenback. Alex. Farnham, Esq., R. C. Shoemaker, C. P. Hunt, G. Murray Reynolds, Judge Rice and T. H. Atherton acted as carriers. The cortege was very long, extending from Market to Northampton Streets. Interment was made in the family plot in Hollenback Cemetery.

Among the large number of relatives present were Mr. and Mrs. Pierce Butler and Frank Butler, of Virginia.

#### DR. PARKE'S TRIBUTE.

[Letter to the Editor.]

There is an interest attaches to many aged persons arising simply out of their relations to the past and present, as connecting links. In the case of Mrs. John L. Butler, who at an advanced age has just been laid away out of our sight, there was this element of interest. When she, a bright and cultured New England girl, came to Wilkes-Barre to reside, the old people with whom she was intimately associated, knew from personal experience what the Wyoming Valley was before the massacre in 1778. Many of them were her near relatives. What she knew, therefore, from personal observation and what had been told her by those who were prominent actors in the stirring scenes in the history of the valley, covered a hundred years and more. In an important sense she reflected the history of a hundred years. This fact in itself gave interest to her life, and retaining as she did, in an eminent degree, all her faculties up to the end of her life, it made her one of the most interesting persons in Wilkes-Barre.

But this was only incidental in Mrs. Butler's case. The charm of her life was not in what she had heard and seen in her extended life, although coupled with a bright and cultivated mind, kept bright until the end. Nor was it her rare conversational powers that gave her prominence in every social circle favored with her presence. She did not in her younger days or in more advanced life ignore the claims of society, but

she never was a society woman. Certainly it never was her ambition to shine as such. She was literary in her tastes and aimed to keep abreast with the age in her knowledge of all the great questions that men and women are talking and thinking about. Neither was the charm of her life in her intelligence, taste and culture, that would have done honor to any new England woman. But it was in her character, in what she was, rather than in what she had heard and what she had done. She had unshaken faith in God, and this faith gave direction to her life. Without being demonstrative in matters of religion, for she rarely talked of her personal experience, she was an earnest Christian woman, who had faith in the power of the gospel to save.

Her record in the First Presbyterian Church in Wilkes-Barre is a marvelous record of faithful work up to and beyond her four score years.

All women have not the encouragement from their husbands that Mrs. Butler had from hers to make their homes hospitable, but she certainly managed to make a home where christian hospitality abounded. The writer of these lines has abundant reason to know of what he writes. With no more claim on Mrs. Butler than on any other christian woman in Wilkes-Barre, when coming here, a missionary to the Lackawanna region, no mother could have done more to help an inexperienced son than Mrs. Butler did for me, and what she did for me she did for other young men. She did not simply open her house for an occasional grand entertainment—the doors of her hospitable home were always open. She was not, I assume, free from the weaknesses that inhere in human nature. We have heard of women who were "supremely" selfish. Mrs. Butler, so far as she appeared to me, was supremely unselfish. She may have had her littleness and meanness and pride and worldliness to contend against, as the rest of us have, but it did not appear. She was a grand woman and she bore the impress of true nobility in every feature of her character. She was intelligent, amiable, gentle, charitable, faithful and true—a christian in the highest sense of that term. There was nothing coarse in her nature, but in all her instincts she was a refined, true woman, loving and lovable.

When Cornelia Richards left Farmington, more than sixty years ago, to become Mrs. John L. Butler, she was no doubt missed from the quiet parish of Dr. Noah Porter, father of ex-President Porter, of Yale College. Now, at the advanced age of 86, as she lays her armor down, her pastor, the Rev. Dr. Hodge, cannot but feel that he has lost a most valuable helper. A light has





gone out of her daughter's beautiful home, out of the church in which she has worshipped and worked all these years, and out of Wilkes-Barre.

She will not worship in the new sanctuary, the corner-stone of which was laid as her spirit plumed its wings to soar from the earth, but she will worship in the house not made with hands, of which Christ is the corner-stone.

N. G. PARKE.

#### Death of Mrs. Charles Bennet.

The many residents of Wilkes-Barre who were acquainted with Mrs. Charles Bennet, of 48 South River Street, will be startled to be apprised of her sudden death by apoplexy on Thursday evening, June 16, at 8:45 o'clock. Mrs. Bennet was in apparent health up to within four hours of her death and at about 4:30 o'clock started with her eldest daughter to drive, her younger daughter, Miss Martie, going ahead of the carriage on horseback. Before reaching Union Street on River the driver perceived a sudden commotion on the rear seat, and seeing that Mrs. Bennet had fainted, called to Miss Martie, who turned round and came back. She realized at once that her mother was seriously ill and with much presence of mind and courage dismounted, dispatched the driver at once for Dr. Mayer and drove the team of horses home as rapidly as possible.

Dr. Mayer soon arrived and with the aid of neighbors Mrs. Bennet was removed to her house. The doctor found that the attack of apoplexy was very severe, and from the first gave out no hope of recovery. Mrs. Bennet lingered without gaining consciousness until nearly 9 o'clock, when she expired.

Mrs. Bennet was 62 years of age, having been born at Franklin, Mich., in 1825. Her maiden name was Sarah Sly, and she was the aunt of the late Major D. S. Bennet, of the Luzerne bar. She was the widow of Charles Bennet, whose death occurred in August, 1866. Mrs. Bennet had two children, Sarah and Martha, both of whom survive.

Mrs. Bennet was a consistent Christian woman whose life was much given up to charity, but in a quiet, unassuming way that attracted little attention. She was of a retiring disposition and was devoted to her family, rarely appearing in any public place except at church where she was regularly in her pew. Mrs. Bennet had excellent business qualities and has managed the affairs of her husband's large estate since his death, 22 years ago. She had not been in good health for several years, but had not been confined to her bed and was accustomed to drive on every pleasant day.

#### Death of an Aged Clergyman.

News of the death of Rev. W. W. Turner, father of Mrs. C. M. Conyngham, was received in this city on July 11 and Mr. and Mrs. Conyngham and Miss Conyngham left the next morning to attend the funeral at Hartford. Mr. Turner was 87 years of age, an Episcopal clergyman and probably the last surviving member of the class of 1819 at Yale College. He devoted himself for many years to teaching deaf mutes and during a long period was principal of the American Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb.

#### Hill Family Reunion.

Some time ago Dr. George Hill, of Hughesville, conceived the idea of calling together the members of the family to which he belonged and holding a reunion at Sunbury. On Thursday, June 23, sixty persons met at the Central Hotel in Sunbury. After the dinner a meeting was called in the lecture room of the Reformed Church and George Hill, of Sunbury, was elected temporary chairman. He made a few graceful remarks, welcoming the members of the family to Sunbury. J. Nevin Hill, also of Sunbury, was elected temporary secretary. The following committee on permanent organization was selected: C. F. Hill, Hazleton; Hon. A. H. Hill, Hughesville; J. C. Hill, Esq., Williamsport; Edward Hill, Leechburg; C. W. Hill, Beach Haven, and Frank E. Hill, Philadelphia.

They reported a form of organization and recommended the following persons for permanent officers, who were thereupon elected:

President, Dr. George Hill; Vice President, C. F. Hill; Secretary and Historian, J. Nevin Hill; Treasurer, George Hill; Standing Committee, C. F. Hill, F. K. Hill, Theodore Hill and Edward Hill.

It was decided that the secretary should have a permanent office in Sunbury. After the organization historical papers were read by C. F. Hill, of Hazleton, and J. C. Hill, of Williamsport. The family history was traced back to 1730.

#### An Ancient Church.

The 145th anniversary festival of the Moravian congregation of Bethlehem, organized June 25, 1742, was celebrated on Sunday, June 25, 1887. The festival was ushered in by trombonists rendering appropriate chorals from the steeple of the Moravian church. The anniversary sermon was preached by Rev. Morris W. Leibert. At the anniversary love feast in the afternoon Rev. J. M. Levering, who presided, read the report kept in the archives of the church referring to the founding of Bethlehem in 1742 and the official services of Count Zinzendorf, father of the Brethren's church, during his sojourn there and in Philadelphia.





### Domain of the Dead.

The five-acre field lying between Hollenback Cemetery and Mill Creek has recently been added to the territory of that beautiful city of the dead. John Welles Hollenback, for the sum of one dollar to him in hand paid, has sold and conveyed this desirable property to the association as additional burying ground. The short feeder branch canal from above the dam at the mouth of Mill Creek, connecting with the old North Branch Canal, is to be filled in, and John Tracy has the contract for filling. A substantial retaining wall will be built from the new stone arch bridge down to the rocky bluff below the old dam, after which the field will be laid out in lots, corresponding with the older grounds as laid out some 30 years ago. The iron fence will be extended the whole length of River Street, while the sides facing the L. V. R.R. and Mill Creek will be protected by a stone wall, same as the one already in place on the old grounds. This new addition will give the cemetery a territory of over 22 acres, and there is no doubt that it will soon be, if it is not already, one of the most attractive cemeteries in the country, outside of the large cities. While on the subject of cemeteries, perhaps it will not be out of place to remark that it is now admitted by everybody that our city authorities were guilty of almost a crime against the future generations to inhabit this city in not securing the whole of the Bidlack farm at the time of purchasing ground for the new city cemetery. The money then in the cemetery treasury (\$35,000) has been sunk in the general city fund, and we are no better off than if it had been sunk in the depths of the Susquehanna River, while the land in question would now be of inestimable value as a part of the mortuary quarter of the city and surrounding country.

### A Presbyterian Centennial.

During the coming year there will be held in Philadelphia a centennial celebration commemorating the establishment of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church. All churches and Presbyteries will be expected to arrange for the collection and publication of the facts of their history. The committee to prepare the history of the Presbytery of Lackawanna consists of Rev. Dr. N. G. Parke, chairman, Rev. Dr. David Craft, Rev. C. C. Corss and Rev. P. H. Brooks.

By resolution, churches of Presbytery are urged to have historical discourses prepared and copies forwarded to the committee as early as August, 1887, in order that they may be laid before the fall meeting of Presbytery.

### What it Costs to Run Luzerne County.

The following shows the amount of county expenditures for the six months from Jan. 1 to July 1:

Assessments.....	\$ 4,865 30
Auditing State tax.....	85 00
Assessment State tax.....	613 04
Burial of soldiers.....	450 50
Court expenses.....	3,548 60
County commissioners.....	1,627 50
Commissioners' clerk.....	940 00
Commonwealth costs.....	4,268 68
County audit.....	3,135 00
Constables' returns.....	768 38
County prison.....	7,503 29
County solicitor.....	125 00
Clerk of the courts.....	1,652 35
County bridges.....	7,188 53
County detective.....	600 00
County line survey.....	69 75
District attorney.....	1,959 00
Eastern Penitentiary.....	798 28
Elections.....	4,241 80
Fox certificates, etc.....	502 40
Grand and Petit Jurors.....	5,426 66
Incidentals and postage.....	167 62
Inquests.....	1,642 36
Jury commissioners.....	210 66
Lunatic hospital.....	2,040 78
Luzerne Agricultural Society.....	100 00
Public records.....	1,830 22
Printing and stationery.....	141 53
Public buildings.....	6,995 25
Prothonotary's fees.....	131 80
Poor tax.....	836 82
Road damages.....	1,122 00
Refunded money.....	49 23
Registration.....	2,507 11
Referees.....	3,015 00
Road and bridge views.....	507 38
Road tax.....	328 60
Relief of injured persons.....	50 38
Sheriff's fees.....	2,271 08
Supreme Court costs.....	47 89
Traverse Jurors.....	3,934 91
White Haven bridge.....	2,000 00
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$86,616 34</b>

### Married Fifty Years.

On June 25 Col. Jacob Rice, of Dallas, and his wife, celebrated the 50th anniversary of their wedding day. The colonel is a hale and hearty old man of three score years and ten and his wife is almost the same age.

On Friday afternoon and evening the children and grandchildren began to arrive from Harrisburg, Plymouth, Fairmount and more distant portions of the State, and when the anniversary feast was spread on Saturday over fifty of the immediate relatives of the host and hostess sat down to the well covered tables. The dinner was a sumptuous one, and the large party gathered was a happy and merry one. In the evening the Dallas Cornet Band gave a serenade and were invited to partake of the hospitality of the house. Mr. Rice and his wife were the recipients of many costly gifts and sincerest wishes of the whole community for many more years of happy life.





**Two Wills Filed.**

On July 14 the wills of Miss Ellen C. Rutter and Mrs. Sarah S. Bennet, were admitted to probate in the office of Register of Wills S. W. Boyd.

Miss Rutter disposes of her estate as follows:

To Ellen R. Patterson, daughter of Agnew Patterson, and to May Rutter, daughter of Sample Rutter, each \$250.

To her nephew Thomas Darling \$1,000.

All the rest of her estate she divides into three equal parts and bequeaths them as follows:

One-third to her nieces Mary R. and Emily C. Darling in equal shares; one-third to her nieces Natalie and Hortense D. Beaumont in equal shares, and one-third to her nieces Ellen, Francis and Augusta, children of James M. Rutter, to be held in trust by the executor until they are 25 years of age, the income meanwhile to be used for their support and education.

The will is dated March 9, 1885, and appoints E. P. Darling as executor.

The will of Mrs. Sarah S. Bennet is brief and explicit. Two thirds of her estate real and personal she leaves unconditionally to her daughter, Martha Bennet. The remaining one-third she leaves to Martha Bennet in trust, the income to be devoted to the support of her daughter, Sarah or Sadie Bennet, on whose death it reverts to Martha Bennet. The document is dated Jan. 17, 1883, and appoints Martha Bennet sole executrix.

**THE BOUNDARY LINE.****Report of the Commission Appointed by the Lackawanna and Luzerne Courts.**

The commission appointed by the courts of Lackawanna and Luzerne, John F. Snyder, W. H. Sturdevant and W. A. Mason, to determine the boundary line between the counties of Lackawanna and Luzerne, have filed a lengthy report of their finding in the office of the Clerk of the Courts, of Scranton, and a map designating the line as they have made it. A brief of the line is as follows: Beginning at a point on the Susquehanna river a little over a mile above the mouth of Falling Spring Brook, thence south and east crossing the Pennsylvania & New York Canal & RR. Co.'s tracks to a chestnut and two yellow pine trees, the line being all the way through improved lands; thence south to a small brook on north side of public back road and to the left bank of the Lackawanna River, crossing the tracks of the Bloomsburg Division of the D. L. & W. RR.; to the intersection of the Pittston back road with the Moosic road, to the branch railroad to the Central breaker

of the Pennsylvania RR. Coal Co., and then to cut stone corner in little Mill Creek. Thence, up the centre of the bed of the creek to a cut stone corner; thence, south and east, crossing the track of the D. & H. RR. and the Erie & Wyoming Valley RR. at Pleasant Valley station, leaving the station on the right, crossing Spring Brook RR. and Spring Brook at cut stone for line on easterly side of wagon road leading up the stream; thence to the northwest corner of the Jasper Irving tract and a corner of the Edward Kennedy tract and the corner of Spring Brook Township; located near which is known as "Cubby" or "Covey Swamp," Thence, south to the crest of mountain sloping toward Spring Brook to a cut stone at the wagon road at the foot of the mountain, crossing Spring Brook 150 feet below old Dolph saw mill; thence across the Spring Brook RR. track and Trout Creek to the southeast corner of the Richard Gardner tract; thence across Monument Creek to the corner of Jacob Yoner and Wm. Parker tracts. Thence, between these tracts across branch of Monument Creek and Pittston Road to a corner of Robert Grey and Joseph Lawrence tracts, thence along line of William Mone tract to a cut stone corner of Keating's field and to a cut stone near a road; thence crossing John Christ and Mathias Baff tracts to a cut stone corner in the northerly line of John Spohn tract; thence to a cut stone for line at the road leading from Meadow Run to Bear Lake to a corner in the left bank of Choke Creek; thence down Choke Creek, its centre thereof, its various courses and distances, through a number of tracts to the Lehigh River.—*Scranton Times*.

[This report, it is understood, decides that the small tract of land in dispute is within the limits of Luzerne County.—Ed.]

**Historical Publications Received.**

The *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* is a high grade quarterly published at \$3 a year by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, 1300 Locust Street, Philadelphia. The July number contains, among other matter, "Unpublished Minutes of the Provincial Council of Pennsylvania, for 1692;" a list of the several portraits of Benjamin Franklin; "Free Society of Traders in Pennsylvania;" Pennsylvania Troops in the U. S. service, in 1787; sketches of members of the Pennsylvania convention which framed the Federal Constitution of 1787; and a fund of interesting historical miscellany.

The *New England Historical and Genealogical Register* is also a quarterly, published at \$3 a year, by the New England





Historic Genealogical Society, 18 Somerset Street, Boston. It comprises 100 pages and presents portraits. The July issue has an interesting title page, the whole forming an invaluable contribution to New England history. Among other things is a list of the Harvard alumni who have held official position, from which it appears that Harvard has furnished two Presidents of the United States, John Adams and John Quincy Adams; two Vice Presidents, John Adams and Eldridge Gerry; 15 Cabinet officers, 23 ministers plenipotentiary, 31 United States Senators, 137 Representatives in Congress, 23 delegates to American and Continental Congress, 30 United States judges, 114 Judges Supreme Courts, 47 Governors of States, 47 presidents of colleges. Certainly a very proud record, though no other college has had an equal chance, as Harvard is 250 years old.

The *New York Genealogical and Biographical Record* is published by the society whose name is incorporated in the title, and issued quarterly from 64 Madison Avenue at \$2 per year. It comprises 48 pages and is illustrated. The July number is particularly interesting.

The *Historical Journal*, is published monthly at \$2 a year, by Col. J. F. Meginess, Williamsport, Pa., editor of the *Gazette and Bulletin*. The August number is an unusually interesting and valuable number. Its leading feature is a biographical sketch, with portrait, of Gov. John Andrew Shulze, including a history of the purchase of the farm at Montoursville, which led to his financial ruin. This is followed with the *Journal of John Hamilton*, of Clinton County, who made a voyage in a canal boat from Pine Creek to Philadelphia, via Union Canal, in 1839. Edith C. Bailly contributes a charming article on "Local History—Its Interest and Importance." The story of a prolific family that emigrated from Greene County to Ohio in 1810 is one of the odd features of the monthly, which is followed with an article on curious grave stone inscriptions. Some valuable information is given of Huntingdon in early times, and the long ownership of the homestead occupied by Hon J. Simpson Africa is shown. Old time furnaces in Butler County and the first mail to Franklin make interesting paragraphs. A letter from Secretary Bayard shows that old Henry Harris, of Muncy, did not purchase his freedom, as he claimed. The department of old persons living is quite full, as well as that of aged deceased. An account of the centennial anniversary of a Washington County lady carries the reader back to pioneer days. Although but four months old the *Historical Journal* has reached a good circulation and is rapidly

gaining a popularity among those who wish to see local history preserved. It is printed on heavy paper, in magazine form, and twelve numbers will make an illustrated bound volume of over 400 pages.

With its July issue the prosperous *Magazine of American History* began its eighteenth volume. A portrait of Henry Laurens, the South Carolina statesman of the Revolution, graces the opening page, accompanied by a realistic and engaging sketch of "Henry Laurens in the London Tower," from the editor. Gen. A. F. Devereaux follows with a spirited and thrilling account of "Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg." Justin Winsor, the Cambridge historian, contributes a valuable paper on "The Manuscript Sources of American History," in which he points out the conspicuous collections extant. John M. Bishop discourses authoritatively on the "United States Mail Service," giving some choice bits of information in its chequered history. No article in this number, however, will be read with more profit than Dr. Albert Bushnell Hart's "Biography of a River and Harbor Bill," a fragment of contemporary history, and yet a legitimate field for inquiry into past politics. George E. Foster gives the history of "Journalism Among the Cherokee Indians," a carefully written paper on a theme very little known to the reading public. William D. Kelley, Hon. Charles K. Tuckerman, James E. Deane, Walter Booth Adams, and others, contribute short stories. A new department appears, called "Historic and Social Jottings," which promises to be an agreeable feature of this admirably conducted publication. Price, \$5 a year. Published at 743 Broadway, N. Y. City.

From Bangor comes the *Maine Historical and Genealogical Recorder*, a \$3 quarterly. It is of interest to every son of Maine who entertains a feeling of pride for his native State. S. M. Watson is the editor and publisher.

Although England has a magazine for local history in almost every shire, the only one that has reached the RECORD office is the *Western Antiquary*, or Notebook for Devon, Cornwall and Somerset. W. H. K. Wright, borough librarian of Plymouth, is the editor. It is published monthly at 7 shillings per annum and each issue comprises 24 pages. An interesting article gives an inventory of the house and furniture of an Exeter citizen in the reign of James I. The inventory contains no mention of crockery of any kind but there were 204 pounds of pewter articles and 50 ounces of silver plate. His library was limited to two bibles and other books aggregating in value 10 shillings. He was a well-to-do brewer and his death occurred in 1608.





# The Historical Record

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION

DEVOTED PRINCIPALLY TO

## The Early History of Wyoming Valley

AND CONTIGUOUS TERRITORY

WITH

## NOTES AND QUERIES

BIOGRAPHICAL, ANTIQUARIAN, GENEALOGICAL



EDITED BY F. C. JOHNSON, M. D.

Vol. 1]

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JULY 1887

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[No. 11.

WILKES-BARRE, PA.

Press of The Wilkes-Barre Record

MDCCCLXXXVII





# The Historical Record

\$1.50 per year.

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## *The Wilkes-Barre Record,*

PUBLISHED EVERY WEEK-DAY MORNING,

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## *The Historical Record,*

PUBLISHED MONTHLY,

Devoted principally to the early history of Wyoming Valley and contiguous territory, with Notes and Queries, Biographical, Antiquarian and Genealogical. The HISTORICAL RECORD was started September, 1886, and each number consists of from 12 to 24 large pages, with wide margin. Subscription, \$1.50 per year, payable in advance. Single Copies, 15 cents.



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THE RECORD,  
WILKES-BARRE, PENN'A.





# The Historical Record

VOL. I.

JULY, 1887.

NO. 11.

## "OLD MICHAEL."

Interesting Reminiscence of the Old Sexton and High Constable Who Rang the Curfew Bell and Terrorized Wilkes-Barre Boys Half a Century Ago.

John Michael Keinzle came from Switzerland about the year 1802, and was elected high constable of Wilkes-Barre in 1806, and held the office until his death in 1846. He was a small, active man, and the only thing high about him was his temper, and this only when exasperated by the bad boys of the town, by whom he was known and universally called "Old Pickle." Naturally he had a kind and tender heart, and was fond of little folks, so long as they behaved well. I can remember being one of a soldier company of which Ned Mallery was captain, and Ned Babb first lieutenant. Our guns were made in the carpenter shop of John P. Babb, of good wood, with a snap spring on the side, which answered our purpose, and were not dangerous. We used to parade on the Saturday half holiday, and generally on the river bank, near old Michael's residence, which was in the Arndt store house on the edge of the bank opposite Morgan's tavern. On these occasions Michael would frequently pass along our line as we were drawn up for review and give each of the boys a penny, which, to most of us, was considered quite a prize, and as Michael was a poor man, it showed the kindness of his heart toward us, which we never forgot. He was not only the constable of the town, but was also the sexton of the churches, and attended to the opening and lighting, cleaning, bell ringing, grave digging, tolling the bell for funerals, etc. A more faithful servant never had charge of the interests of a town. As a sexton of the churches, he had the lamps to keep clean and filled with whale oil. At the mid-week meetings he lighted the candles and attended to keeping them well snuffed. At the church he wore pump shoes, and moved about among the congregation silently with his snuffers reviving the lights at the time of singing, etc. On Sunday he sat in the gallery where he could watch the boys, and was to any urchin who did not sit still or who made any noise. He rang the bell at 9 o'clock at night in the old Meeting House in the Public Square, as a notice to the mer-

chants to close up, and for all who were abroad to retire to their homes and go to bed, and this he did without pay and in all kinds of weather, and never failed to toll the day of the month after the ringing. He had a pound on the river bank, near his residence, and all cattle found at large at night were driven into it and kept there until the owner paid his fine and took them away. When a drunken man was found lying asleep Michael went for his wheelbarrow and putting the poor wretch on it wheeled him to the pound and then dumped him in among the cows and swine until he recovered his senses. In the winter when the deep snows would cover the coal-ash sidewalks, Michael would be up while the town was asleep and, with a snow-plow, drive along the walks and have all the snow off by the time the people got their eyes open; and this he did, as far as I know, without any compensation, except the pleasure of doing it for the good of the town. He had the only hay scales in the town at his home on the river bank, where by means of a beam to which were attached long chains which he fastened to the wheels of the wagons raising them and the hay clear of the ground and getting at the weight. He was the weigh master of the town and charged ten cents for the services. He was fearless when in discharge of his duty, and many a time he would make arrests and take the prisoner to the door of the jail, and then his goodness of heart would cause him to let the prisoner go after a good scare and the promise of reformation. This, of course, applied mostly to the boys of the town, when he was fortunate enough to catch them. As an example of his nerve, he at one time ascended the steeple of the old church and stood upon the small ball, 125 feet from the ground. If he found a cow daring enough to enter the church yard he would then show his temper, as he generally had to chase her several times around the church before he got rid of her, then he would swear in his broken Swiss until all was blue. Upon one occasion the writer rode up bare back on a horse to get a switch from the willow tree that stood in front of the Episcopal Church. In order to do this it became necessary to ride upon the sidewalk, which was contrary to law, and in reaching up with both hands, totally





unconscious of danger or harm. Michael, who was in the church, discovered me, and quietly coming up behind the horse, struck him a whack across the back with his sword-cane. The attack coming so unexpectedly, and being altogether unprepared for it, the horse sprang forward and came very near breaking my neck. As soon as I recovered my seat I looked back at "Old Pickle," who was swearing gloriously, for he had splintered and broken his cane, which afforded me gratification enough, and I laughed heartily, which only served to increase his wrath. I was wrong for laughing at him and am sorry now as I think of it that I did it. How well I remember standing by the graves he had dugged and noticing his quite sympathetic ways as he dropped the dirt upon the coffin lid at the words "dust to dust, ashes to ashes," and when, as was the custom then, the bystanders, after the service, would throw in the dirt until Michael would say, "Dis will do shentlemens" after which he would remain and fill up the grave. I presume if all the reminiscences of "Old Michael" during his 40 years of service could be collected they would fill a volume. Notwithstanding his many engagements, he found time to cultivate a garden in the lot just below the residence of E. P. Darling, in which he cultivated besides vegetables a beautiful display of flowers. He lived entirely alone, having a room fitted up in the beforementioned store house. His death was occasioned by a fall down the stairs by which he reached his bedroom. He was discovered by accident, or he might have died where he fell, but when found he was carefully nursed until he died. An old man faithful to every trust, and vigilant in the discharge of every duty, he was buried in the old burying ground on Market Street, where he had assisted in laying away so many of the citizens young and old, of the town, and the bell which he had tolled so often for others now tolled for him. I do not remember that any stone marked his resting place; and I have often wondered whether any one now living could tell where his remains rest at present, since the removal of the dead to the new cemeteries. If so, nothing could be more fitting than to erect some kind of a monument as a slight tribute to his unselfish fidelity and worth.—*Wilkes-Barre Telephone.*

#### A Monument to Old Michael.

In the RECORD of Tuesday, July 26, was an interesting article recalling Old Michael, Wilkes-Barre's sexton, and High Constable of half a century ago. In the article the suggestion was made that the admirers of

Old Michael raise a fund with which to erect a monument to his memory. The suggestion has drawn out a letter from a Wyalusing gentleman who attended school at the old Academy on Public Square, 50 odd years ago, to his brother, residing in this city, offering to contribute towards a suitable memorial. The RECORD will be pleased to publish similar offers from other sources, together with any reminiscences of the sturdy old sexton which may be at hand. The letter reads as follows:

Dear Brother: Yesterday's RECORD contains some reminiscences of "Old Michael," who served Wilkes-Barre so long and so unselfishly as High Constable and general sexton to the churches; and the suggestion is made that his grave may be unknown and unmarked. Feeling under some obligation to his memory, I would be willing to contribute to a suitable memorial for him. About 1832 there lived in the town an unfortunate "Jim Gridley," whom the boys used to delight in teasing when on his sprees. I was attracted to the intersection of Market and Franklin Streets on one of these occasions, in which I participated as an outsider and onlooker. I was perhaps not as much on my guard as more active ones; and Old Michael caught and dosed me with the prescription "when taken, to be well shaken!" and the medicine was effective. I never assisted, even theoretically, in another "mill" of a drunkard.

The winter I boarded at Aunt B's, old Michael called one cold morning in regard to some question of church service, and Cousin Emily (Mrs. Wright) brought him a glass of wine. He may have expected some such recognition; and if he did, he deserved it. The boys who value his memory should speak out; as that memory ought to be perpetuated by a fitting memorial. G. H. W.

Wyalusing, July 27, 1887.

#### The County Assessment.

The assessments from all the districts of Luzerne County have been returned to the office of the county commissioners and the totals footed up. The total number of taxables in the county is 54,598; value of seated lands \$8,225,647; value of building lots \$3,034,227; value of houses \$4,046,511; value of outbuildings and other improvements \$2,115,224; number of horses 13,577; value of horses \$368,962; number of cattle 8,924; value of cattle \$88,701; value of occupations \$2,502,231; number of stages, omnibuses, etc., 282; value of same \$8,880; total valuation of taxables for county purposes \$20,390,383.





## EARLY RAILROADING.

The Objections it Had to Meet 60 Years Ago—Pronounced Visionary and Impracticable.

There is before us a copy of the *Lycoming Gazette* of August 24, 1825, which contains a six column article headed "Railways Inexpedient in Pennsylvania," in which the author, "H," argues strenuously in favor of canals, in preference to railway transportation, either by horse or by steam power. In his endeavor to show a railway from Philadelphia to Pittsburg to be impracticable, he quotes from a pamphlet on that subject, which says, "in the majority of instances, if the ascent be not greater than 12½ feet to the mile, hills offer no obstacles whatever to railways," the inference being that if a greater ascent should intervene that it would offer a serious obstacle. He regarded a horse railway as entirely inadequate to accommodate the local trade, locomotive power being regarded as out of the question. He says, "a bustle of business will always occur in the spring of the year, after farmers have thrashed their grain. In that season it will not be unusual for 15 or 20 individuals in the same village to wish to load their cars at the same time." He says a car will carry about two tons, and the presence of a hundred or more cars in a town at the same time would cause inextricable confusion among the patrons of the road.

Again he says, "as the advocates of the railroad system universally agree, that Pennsylvania cannot afford the expense of railway and locomotive engines, it is futile to expect that the great objects of speed, cheapness of transportation and general accommodation will be accomplished by means of horse power."

"The expense of constructing a road with four sets of rails—two for commodities and two for passengers, mails, etc., with a locomotive engine, would be extremely unprofitable to the State, were it even practicable."

In conclusion the cautious Mr. H. says: "Let the people of Pennsylvania then pursue the even tenor of their way—in accordance with their characteristic caution, and refuse to sanction by their adoption, a yet visionary scheme about which they know nothing."

It is but sixty-one years since the foregoing arguments against the introduction of railroads in our State were gravely put forth as unanswerable in favor of canals and against railroads as a means of transportation, the practicability of the latter being even doubted, when 12½ feet to the mile ascending grade was regarded as the maximum for railroading purposes, and yet by the light of experience we now find that the highest mountain range offer little obstruction

to the successful operating of railroads by steam, while 2½ ton cars have given place to gondolas of 25 tons burden, as we see long trains of coal laden cars of the largest capacity moving as if by magic up the steepest grades of our mountain systems. Who shall predict what the next half century may bring about by way of electrical motive power in this country? W. J.

## Peter Pence Again.

EDITOR RECORD: Allow me to communicate the following letter from John Q. Dice, Esq., of Wayne Station, Pa., which throws a little more light on Peter Pence, a sketch of whom was published your columns.

C. F. H.

WAYNE STATION, Pa., June 8, 1887.—DEAR SIR: Pence had but one son. He died about 1809 in Wayne Township, Northumberland County. That was before Lycoming or Clinton was organized. He was buried in Wayne Township, which now is Crawford Township, Clinton County.

He has three or four grand-children living in Crawford Township, who are well off, and can give a fair account of their grandfather. As I am well acquainted with them I hope to get a full history from them. I may be able in the near future to get hold of some old documents that may lead to a more correct statement than has yet been made. I have seen the place where he is buried. I also saw a book where he voted in 1802, '3 and '5 in Wayne township, Northumberland County. That was about the last voting he did. I am trying to get his age and then will give his whole history as near as I can. I also saw the place where Pence and Grove and others killed the Indians at the mouth of Grove's Run on the Sinnamahoning. Thirty years ago when we were running a railroad line the marks of their axes were still on the trees and that is why it was called Grove's Run. That is 48 miles west from Wayne. They went up that run six miles and came down another run and struck the river six miles west of the mouth of the Sinnamahoning Creek and that run is called Grove's Run. They then came down the West Branch River and returned to Northumberland without being molested.

JOHN Q. DICE,

[NOTE.—Mr. Dice is evidently mistaken in his statement that Peter Pence died in 1809, as the Legislature of Pennsylvania, March 10, 1810, passed a bill granting him an annuity which they certainly would not have done had he died the year before. The records at Harrisburg should show how this pension was paid him and when.—ED.]





## A Very Hot July.

It has been said over and over again that the month of July just ended was hotter than any other July within the memory of the oldest inhabitant. This seems to be a mistake, at least it is so figured out by a Record man, who has examined the meteorological records made by Judge Dana, who has an outfit of Government instruments. From his tables it appears that July of the present year was not as hot as was July in 1883, by one degree. The reason that the former has created so much discomfort is that the humidity has been far above the common moisture. The rainfall for the month of July during the past six years has been as follows:

July 1882, rainfall 4.65 inches; rain fell on eight days; average of maximum temperature, 79½ degrees.

July 1883, rainfall 6.41 inches; rain fell on 14 days; average maximum temperature, 81.

July 1884, rainfall 4.59 inches; sixteen days; average maximum temperature, 77.

July 1885, rainfall 3.19 inches, nine days; average maximum temperature, 75½.

July 1886, rainfall 3.92 inches, nine days; average maximum temperature, 77½.

July 1887, rainfall 9.53 inches, thirteen days; average maximum temperature, 80.

The maximum temperatures noted by Judge Dana are taken at 2 p.m., and the showing for the several years is as follows:

July.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887
1	77	80	84	69	77	88
2	71	89	86	63	71	90
3	70	76	81	69	81	87
4	60	94	83	71	88	85
5	60	94	84	81	84	73
6	78	88	76	85	88	72
7	80	86	65	71	89	85
8	81	68	62	83	82	83
9	82	76	69	88	80	75
10	82	81	79	76	75	72
11	86	82	84	72	78	78
12	84	84	84	76	73	84
13	79	81	80	73	78	85
14	78	83	68	77	70	80
15	78	83	74	79	73	75
16	83	88	73	86	75	90
17	82	78	70	81	80	85
18	79	77	79	85	78	79
19	80	76	80	89	75	77
20	82	78	73	93	74	72
21	76	80	73	84	68	66
22	77	87	81	90	74	78
23	83	74	87	85	73	75
24	85	70	82	87	76	73
25	85	79	79	79	73	83
26	86	83	80	81	72	81
27	88	85	63	83	72	81
28	88	80	78	80	78	84
29	73	78	64	79	83	84
30	81	78	78	80	82	85
31	79	79	78		79	84

The observations of Rev. Dr. Hodge, who also has Government instruments, probably come nearer to the degree of heat as experi-

enced under ordinary circumstances. His instruments are within a house—Government standard—built for the purpose, and are not protected by trees. On the other hand Judge Dana's thermometer hangs on a tree in his garden, more or less protected also, by a grape arbor, his maximum for July of the present year ranging four degrees below that of Dr. Hodge, the latter's being 87.8 degrees.

Dr. Hodge says that according to his instruments July was the hottest of any month during the 19 years he has been engaged in taking observations. There were 15 days on which the temperature reached 90 or over, a really remarkable continuity of heat. The highest temperature noted by Dr. Hodge was 99.1 degrees and the lowest was 57.5. Only once during the month, night or day, did the temperature fall below 60. The average maximum temperature was 87.8, the average minimum was 65.1 and the mean temperature for day and night was 75.3. Dr. Hodge says that September, 1881, was popularly styled the hottest month on record, but he was absent at that time and consequently has no observations:

Dr. Hodge kindly furnishes the following maximums and minimums for July, 1887:

July	Max.	Min.	July.	Max.	Min.
1	95.4	60.	17	92.	67.3
2	94.5	65.5	18	85.9	68.2
3	92.	65.5	19	80.	66.5
4	90.	70.	20	80.5	60.3
5	79.	63.5	21	73.4	64.5
6	87.5	65.5	22	88.	67.5
7	91.1	65.5	23	84.	68.5
8	92.	63.	24	79.5	66.3
9	85.6	67.	25	89.4	70.5
10	78.9	62.5	26	84.8	70.
11	83.1	64.	27	91.	68.
12	92.2	60.5	28	92.	64.5
13	93.5	60.	29	92.1	69.
14	85.8	64.3	30	93.7	68.5
15	84.	57.5	31	92.9	68.
16	99.1	60.5			

It ought to be said, however, that the temperature in the average home is far higher than that in the observation house where Dr. Hodge's Government instruments are situated. From his minimum it would look as if the nights ought to be cool enough for comfort, but the fact is that a standard thermometer in the sleeping apartment of the writer indicated a minimum of 80 through out the entire night on many dates, and never once went below 75. It is a pity we could not surround ourselves with the conditions which environ Dr. Hodge's instruments, hot as the latter show up.

The rainfall on Monday, Aug. 1, was phenomenal, the gauges of both Judge Dana and Dr. Hodge measuring an inch plus. It would be interesting to know what the rainfall was up Laurel Run.





## AN OLD-TIME TAVERN.

The Beverages with Which Our Grandfathers Used to Warm Their Insides in Winter and Cool Them in Summer.

The following description in the *Detroit Free Press*, of a tavern in the early part of the present century would probably apply more or less accurately to hostelrys elsewhere and we therefore reprint it:

In 1807 William Hodge, Sr., built an addition to his log house in Buffalo and established a tavern, about which his son, William Hodge, wrote thus: "This noble mansion consisted of two rooms on the lower floor, with a wide hall between them. It had battened doors, naked peeled beams and windows of 7 by 9 glass. The north room was used as a parlor, sitting room, main kitchen and dining room. The south room was the more public one. There the eye was caught by large black letters on an unpainted door, telling the visitors to 'Walk in,' and there too was the 'latch string,' hanging on the outer side of the door. This room also contained the bar, which was partitioned off in one corner.

"Under the shelves stood the whisky and cider barrels, and on them were the kegs of brandy, rum and gin, and one or two kinds of wine, as Madeira and Port. Maybe there was also there a keg of shrub or peppermint cordial, and occasionally one of metheglin. Sometimes, in the proper season, the bar would contain a barrel of spruce beer, home made of course. There was no lager beer in those days. The sugar box and money drawer were made to slide under the front counter board. The white sugar then used came in high, tapering, solid cakes called sugar loaves, done up in coarse brown or black paper. A few may yet be seen. The liquors sold at the bar were always measured out in the wine glass and gill cup, or in larger quantities if desired.

"Cider was sold by the pint or quart, red pepper being added; and in cold weather it was set upon coals and embers to heat. The mixed drinks sold at the bar were termed 'slings,' and were made of sugar, water and brandy, rum or gin, well stirred with the 'sugar stick.' Hot slings were made the same way, except that a hot iron was put in, to temper them, a slight sprinkling of nutmeg being regularly added. A 'sangaree' was made in the same way, using wine instead of the stronger liquors. Nearly all were as much in the habit of using these different kinds of liquors as beverages as people now are of using tea, coffee and even milk.

"The fireplace in the barroom and that in the north room were without 'jambs'—

the chimneys being built with split sticks and plastered. That in the north room was furnished with a 'trammel pole' and 'trammel' with hook to match, for hanging kettles, etc., over the fire. The hearths were made of stones gathered from the fields. The chamber rooms were used for sleeping purposes. An addition built on the east side of the barroom was used as a back kitchen and wash room. It had a sloping roof, being a 'lean to.' The fire place was built in one corner of it, and the chimney and hearth were of the same materials as those in the other rooms."

## Something About Sea Coal.

An article in this week's *Coal Trade Journal*, headed "What is sea coal?" says: "In the proposals of coal wanted for the Navy there is one peculiar requirement laid down in the list; it is for ten barrels of sea coal for the Norfolk Yard. What an ancient rut the Department must have fallen into to keep up such a name! In the days of old, when Bess was Queen of England, such a term might do to designate a quality of fuel, but hardly in the 19th century."

There seem to be a few things yet for the editor of the *Journal* to learn concerning the subject of coal in its various forms, when we discover that he does not know that "sea coal" is an article well known to sea faring men. But perhaps he has never sailed very far on blue water for the purpose of acquiring information, as that is not supposed to be exactly the place to look for coal, except it be on board vessels in transit to some seaport town. But if he had ever had the misfortune to have been shipwrecked anywhere on the sandy shores of the Gulf of Mexico, he would have noticed in his wanderings along the beach masses of a substance resembling anthracite coal, though not so hard, and of specific gravity considerably less, scattered here and there among these vast beds of sand. This is called in common nautical parlance of the Gulf coast "sea coal," as it is thrown up by the action of the water and comes from the bed of the ocean during the prevailing northers of the winter months. It is nothing more or less than solidified bitumen, or asphalt in its natural state. What its use is in ship building we are not informed, but it may be that it is used in a liquid form, applied hot, for coating iron in order to keep it from rusting, or it may be used as a stain to give a dark color to woodwork in some interior joiner work of vessels.

W. J.





### The Legend of Lake Opelousa.

The prosaic and vulgar name for Lake Opelousa is South Pond, but even with this title it is not as well-known as its great natural beauty and situation deserves. A drive up Hunlock Creek to Muhlenburg and two miles beyond will bring the tourist to this clear, lily-befringed pool, where it rests among low hills of forests and fields. Only the narrow and gingerly spirit of the present proprietor, it is claimed, prevents Lake Opelousa from surpassing, or at least equaling the other lakes of this vicinity as a popular summer resort. But a few summers can pass, nevertheless, before its healthy margin will be adorned by many summer cottages.

How much more poetical and appropriate is the Indian liquid name, Opelousa, than any English title which could be given to such a lake. The legend which gives it this name is one of the prettiest of Indian traditions. Opelousa, it is fabled, was a handsome maiden belonging to the Shawnee village, which was situated not far from the present site of Bloomingdale. She loved, with passionate devotion a promising young Shawnee brave, named Wassaileya, but he, however, did not reciprocate her affection, being the admirer and slave of a maiden of the Senecas, whom he met one day on a hunting expedition in the northern forests. The Seneca tribe resented the intrusion of the romantic Wassaileya, whose amorous perseverance finally led to a declaration of open war.

One of the battles or skirmishes took place in the woods bordering Lake Opelousa. The Shawnees were worsted that day, and Wassaileya, heroically though he had fought, had dragged himself, covered with wounds, to a secret hiding place in the woods. Here he was sought for and found by the faithful Opelousa. When she saw him she rushed forward to lay herself at his feet, but he, in the haste of misjudgment, conceiving that an enemy was approaching, directing an arrow, pierced her breast with a mortal wound. He heard her dying tale of devotion and forgiveness with consternation, for he had never guessed the truth before. The maid of the Senecas had proven false, but here was one who was the ideal of all his dreams, shattered by his own illfated hand.

The body of Opelousa, according to a rare custom, was set adrift upon the Lake in a birch canoe of great beauty. It floated for many days, but at length delivered its fair burden to the depths. In the same canoe, repaired by his own hands, Wassaileya, thin and haggard, was to be seen day and night eagerly scanning the waters for many weeks. To no one would he speak, and all passed him by with a fearful look. At length, on a cold autumn midnigut, those who were near

and awake averred that they had heard a great shriek upon the Lake. Next morning Wassaileya's canoe floated upon the waves without its customary occupant. He had at length seen, either in person or in imagination, the form of Opelousa reclining upon the bottom of the Lake, and had leaped to embrace it in death.

Such is the story of Lake Opelousa, and who will again dare call it South Pond? Beautiful as the lakes themselves are these names and traditions. Then, for the double attraction, why should not Harvey's Lake be known by its Indian name, Skandara? Lake Winola, but a few brief years ago, was Breeches Pond. Who could return to that dull, prosaic name now? There is a flavor of woods and nature's pure air in these Indian accents. We would be but according the lakes their right by restoring to them their early names.

### An Old Landmark Gone.

The old Myers house at Forty Fort was entirely destroyed by fire on Monday evening, June 20. The dwelling was unoccupied at the time. It is supposed that the fire was the work of incendiaries. The property was owned by Henry Myers and was one of the landmarks of the valley. The building was constructed of logs and was over 100 years old. If it had the power of speech it could tell some queer stories about the Red man and his antics.

### Local Taxes Fifty Years Ago.

EDITOR RECORD: I find in looking over some old papers a duplicate for the county tax for the borough and township of Wilkes-Barre, which I collected for the year 1837, just fifty years ago, and to show the contrast I give you the figures. The whole amount of tax was \$973 33, which I presume is now paid by a single individual or coal company. The whole number of taxables was less than 500, and what at first seems almost incredible, there are only three of the number that I can find who are now living. They are Nathaniel Rutter, Andrew T. McClintock and myself. J. G. FELL.

Waverly, July 4, 1887.

### A Coal Company's Big Tax.

In last week's RECORD was published a letter from J. G. Fell, of Waverly, who stated that the entire tax in Wilkes-Barre Borough and Township in 1837 was only \$973 33. Mr. Fell venturing the opinion that an amount equally large was now paid by a single individual or corporation. The RECORD is since informed by Real Estate Agent Reuben Downing that the Lehigh & Wilkes-Barre Coal Co. was assessed \$18,037.92 last year for the city of Wilkes-Barre alone—a tax 20 times that of the entire community 50 years ago.





## OUR CITY'S SIZE.

**The Census of the City Assessors Completed—Some Interesting Facts and Figures.**

On Dec. 1 of last year the city assessors, Dr. Sturdevant, Anning Dilley and John E. Quick, commenced the work of making a full and detailed census of the city by wards. Their work was finished on April 1st and many of the interesting facts and figures developed thereby are given below. It must be remembered, however, that the figures cannot show the exact population of the city to-day as there has been a very rapid growth since the work of the assessors began, some 8 months ago. The assessors believe that this growth will amount to about 4 per cent, which would make the total population to-day about 34,000.

The assessors find the area of the city to be about four square miles. The number of streets accepted by the city is 144 and their aggregate length 82 miles. Some of the details of population, etc., by wards, are as follows, the population by the census of 1880 being given in each ward for comparison:

**First Ward**—Males 1,121, females 920, colored 76, total 2,117; total in 1880, 1,536; children of school age 592; buildings 324; manufactories 6; churches 3; school house 1.

**Second Ward**—Males 1,950, females 1,563, colored 0, total 3,513, total in 1880 1,684; children of school age 985; buildings 552; manufactories 9; churches 2; school houses 3.

**Third Ward**—Males 1,465, females 1,360, colored 0, total 2,825, total in 1880 2,344; children of school age 832; buildings 473; manufactories 6; churches 0; school houses 0.

**Fourth Ward**—Males 584, females 735, colored 10, total 1,329, total in 1880, 1,301; children of school age 321; buildings 244; manufactories 4; churches 1; school houses 0.

**Fifth Ward**—Males 976, females 913, colored 80, total 1,969, total in 1880, 1,430; children of school age 423; buildings 341; manufactories 17; churches 0; school houses 1.

**Sixth Ward**—Males 1073, females 1118, colored 26, total 2,217, total in 1880, 2,110;\* children of school age 706; buildings 387; manufactories 1; churches 4; school houses 1.

**Seventh Ward**—Males 461, females 647, colored 13, total 1,121, total in 1880 1,070; children of school age 229; buildings 230; manufactories 6; churches 3; school houses none.

**Eighth Ward**—Males 954, females 1128, colored 50, total 2,132, total in 1880 1,850;

children of school age 417; buildings 382; manufactories 9; churches 4; school houses none.

**Ninth Ward**—Males 586, females 548, colored none, total 1,132, total in 1880 2,110\*; children of school age 345; buildings 206; manufactories none; churches 4; school houses 1.

**Tenth Ward**—Males 628, females 821, colored 71, total 1,520, total in 1880 1,330; children of school age 377; buildings 281; manufactories 1; churches 2; school houses none.

**Eleventh Ward**.—Males 1117, females 1114, colored 88, total 2,319, total in 1880 1,925; children of school age 601; buildings 319; manufactories 8; churches 3; school houses 2.

**Twelfth Ward**.—Males 760, females 831, colored 23, total 1,614, total in 1880 1,152; children of school age 485; buildings 321; manufactories 0; churches 1; school houses 1.

**Thirteenth Ward**.—Males 1420, females 1613, colored 74, total 3,107, total in 1880 1,723; children of school age 979; buildings 583; manufactories 2; churches 1; school houses 2.

**Fourteenth Ward**—Males 1,992, females 1,813, colored 15, total 3,891, total in 1880 2,974; children of school age 1,089; buildings 689; manufactories 1; churches 2; school houses 2.

**Fifteenth Ward**—Males 596, females 675, colored 25, total 1,296, total in 1880, 898; children of school age 426; buildings 244; manufactories 4; churches 2; school houses 1.

In 1880 the Sixth and Ninth Wards were taken together.

\*Grand total for city—Males 15,683, females 15,808, colored 551, total 32,122, total in 1880, 23,309; children of school age 8,810; buildings 5,576; manufactories 74; churches 34; school houses 14.

**John Franklin.**

From Kline's *Carlisle Gazette* for Wednesday, Oct. 3, 1787, Dr. Egle's *Notes and Queries* in the *Harrisburg Telegraph* prints the following:

"We hear from Wilkesburg, [Wilkes-Barre] in the county of Luzerne, that a court was held their last week in the most peaceful manner. Two bills, it is said, were found against John Franklin for riot and trespass, and for assault and battery. This incendiary, we are told, has retreated to Tioga, where he is stimulating a body of vagrants to commit fresh acts of rebellion and treason against the government of Pennsylvania."





### Two Preachers of Former Times.

Among the able and faithful ministers of the gospel who inhabit this region of country, says the *Carbondale Leader*, there are now two who from circumstances are quite prominent. We refer to Rev. W. K. Mott, of the Baptist, and Rev. N. G. Parke, of the Presbyterian Church. The former has recently contributed to the local church history some reminiscences of his work reaching back a period of fifty-five years, while the latter has just preached his forty third anniversary sermon.

No part of the early history of this region is more interesting than that relating to the progress of religious bodies, and nothing has made greater progress than the cause which, after all, lies at the foundation of true prosperity. In view of this fact we feel justified in giving up the space required to publish some of this history:

Elder Mott was licensed to preach at Middletown, Susquehanna County, in March, 1832. Rev. J. B. Parker, a missionary of the New York Baptist convention having come into Northeastern Pennsylvania as a general missionary, W. K. Mott started with him on a missionary tour. Their method of travel was on horseback. From Middletown they first went to Laceyville, thence down the Susquehanna to Mehoopany, Tunkhannock, Exeter, Northmoreland and Wilkes-Barre. At all these places meetings were held. From thence they traveled to Plymouth, called at that time Shawnee, Nanticoke, Hunlock's Creek, and held meetings. Two other missionaries came into the Wyoming Valley about this time, Revs Charles Morton and Philip P. Brown. The latter located at Pittston. In August, 1833, at the Bridgewater Association in the church at Laceyville, Rev. W. K. Mott was ordained to the gospel ministry. He soon entered the Lackawanna Valley and began preaching. After three years of labor in this extensive field many of his people moved out west of Chicago. They desired him to go along but instead he removed to Hyde Park and took up his residence there April 15, 1837. It contained then just twenty families and only three members of a Baptist Church. His preaching stations were Pittston, Hyde Park, Providence, Blakely and Greenfield, and for a time he was the only minister in all this valley. From Pittston to Blakely he visited in two years every family on the route and the population was less than 2,000. On the east side of the Lackawanna, where Scranton is, was only a saw and grist mill and the Slocum house. There was a plank foot bridge across the river at Dodgetown, and to get across the river where Lackawan-

na Avenue now is he took off his shoes and stockings and waded across. He then went up to the saw mill and got some lumber to build a barn. He found a man to haul it, and as they were fording the river at Dodgetown he sat on the load and said to Mr. Atherton, who was driving, "These side hills and this valley will yet be covered by a great city." He has lived to see his prophecy fulfilled. August 26, 1849, the First Baptist church of Scranton was organized under his ministry. This is now located on Scranton Street. His account of meetings and his "valley experiences," as he called them, were thrilling. His references to praying loud as he went along the road through the then wilderness, were very touching. His toils and sacrifices were truly heroic, and to him is really due the first permanent establishment of Baptist worship in Scranton. On one occasion he lost his horse and had to go to his appointment "on his feet," as he quaintly expressed it. Elder Mott has attended over 1,000 funerals, all the way from Wilkes-Barre to Carbondale, of persons who have been buried in 75 different grave yards. He has married over 300 couples and baptized several hundred converts. He paid a good tribute to Elder John Miller, the old pastor who settled in Waverly in 1800, for his noble endeavors for Christ. All through this and the adjoining valleys are many houses where the name Elder Mott is a household word. He has preached in all the other churches hereabouts and has been the pastor of many of them.

Dr. Parke was the pioneer preacher for the Presbyterians in all the territory between Carbondale and Wilkes-Barre. In his recent anniversary sermon he says:

When I first preached in Pittston on the second Sabbath of June, 1844, there were not to exceed, in the valleys between Nanticoke and Carbondale, aside from Wilkes-Barre and Kingston, fifty members of the Presbyterian Church. There are now from eight to ten thousand.

Rev. John Dorrance, D. D., and Rev. E. Hazard Snowden were the only settled Presbyterian ministers in the valley. Now we have twenty-five.

There was not a Presbyterian house of worship, and only two or three of any kind, between Wilkes-Barre and Carbondale. There was a tradition of an attempt about the year 1840 to erect a Presbyterian Church in Providence. When the frame of the building was way up it was blown down in a thunder storm, and the enterprise was abandoned. There are now in the two valleys more than twenty-five Presbyterian spires pointing to the sky.

The property controlled by the Presbyterian Church in these valleys, all told,





could not have exceeded in value \$10,000. Her property now exceeds in value \$600,000.

Wilkes-Barre was the only self-sustaining church in our connection in the valley, and all she engaged to pay her pastor, Dr. Dorrance, was \$500. The church of Carbondale, which belonged to the new school branch of the church and was cared for by the Rev. Mr. Allen, may have been a self-supporting church. The amount reported to the General Assembly last year by the Presbytery of Lackawanna in maintaining the ordinances of God's house was \$124,552. Not all of this but a large portion of it was paid by the churches of the two valleys. The contributions of these churches to other benevolent objects during the year amount to nearly \$50,000.

There were Sabbath-schools in the valleys in 1844, but this agency was then in its infancy. The Presbyterian Church had not fairly entered on this work. Last year our Sabbath-schools reported 12,892 scholars.

#### Centennial of the Constitution.

THE RECORD is in receipt of several circulars relative to the centennial celebration of the framing and promulgation of the Constitution of the United States, which will take place at Philadelphia, on the 15th, 16th and 17th of September next. One gives the correspondence between the Constitutional Centennial Commission and Col. A. Loudon Snowden, appointing him marshal and his acceptance. Col. Snowden accepts "as a public duty, and from a conviction that we confidently rely upon the cordial and earnest support of our patriotic and public spirited citizens, in the effort to properly commemorate the establishment of Constitutional Government on this continent, which is esteemed by many thoughtful men not to be second in its beneficent results to the great Declaration itself."

An appeal is made to those engaged in the various branches of business and industries throughout the Union, which have been developed under the guarantees and safeguards of the constitution to assist in making the processional display, as far as possible, a suggestive presentation of the marvelous advance made within the past one hundred years in the arts of peace. As the circular says, this demonstration should be made worthy of our country and the great event to be commemorated.

J. W. Hofmann, Chief of Staff, desires that those intending to participate, will send information as to the probable number of men, horses and carriages they will bring; and the character of the display intended to be made, at the earliest date possible. The

office of the marshal and chief of staff is at City Hall.

The governors of the several States have been invited to co-operate, the following being some extracts from the circular of invitation:

I need not remind you that is of the highest importance that this celebration should not alone illustrate our moral, intellectual and material progress within the past hundred years, but that it should be made so imposing as to leave an indelible impression on the minds of our people, particularly upon the youth of our land, as to the paramount importance of upholding and guarding the Constitution as the sheet anchor of our liberties and the bulwark of our prosperities and happiness of our people.

It devolves upon us in the coming celebration to illustrate, as far as possible, in the processional display, the marvelous material and industrial advance which has been made under the benign influence of the Constitution. It is a celebration in which all should participate. To assure success will require generous and cordial co-operation, and upon this I confidently rely.

Without presuming to indicate a plan for your guidance I may say that it has been suggested that your Excellency appoint a committee to which shall be assigned the duty of directing the attention of your citizens to the subject, and the organizing your industries for participation in the demonstration, which it is proposed to make, if possible, the most imposing of the kind ever witnessed on this continent.

#### Susquehanna County Centennial.

Susquehanna County is a hundred years old. It is not absolutely certain where the first rude log cabin was erected by the white man but it is certain that commencements were made in old Willingboro, Brooklyn and Harmony in the year 1787. The largest and most noted of these settlements was undoubtedly at Great Bend. This was also the principal point of Indian occupancy in Susquehanna County. There was a small Tuscarora village opposite the Salt Lick on the Great Bend side of the river. The old village of Great Bend was on the Hallstead side of the river. "A. B." writes as above in the *Montrose Republican*. In the same paper, Miss Emily C. Blackman, the historian of the county says:

The townships settled in 1787, and consequently most nearly interested, — Great Bend, Harmony, and Brooklyn — might easily secure much of value to make a public demonstration successful, the whole county joining with them in contributions to the early history and to the exhibition of its store of relics. Of these townships it is barely possible the last mentioned should be





placed first in order of settlement, by a few months; but this can be ascertained only in one way, so far as I can see, viz: By finding a record of the deed given "at the end of the first year," by John Nicholson, Comptroller of Pennsylvania, to his cousin, Mrs. Adam Miller, who with her husband came to the Hopbottom lands in 1787. This would determine the season of their coming—spring or fall; if the former, it would give almost certain precedence to Brooklyn, since what we know of the settlement on the Susquehanna is, that in the fall of that year, two families at least were there. Of course they may have been there months before. The earliest deed of land in Susquehanna County on record in the deeds books of Luzerne County is that of Tench Francis to Ozias Strong for land north of the river at Great Bend; but, two days later, Benajah Strong bought of Francis 600 acres south of the river, on both sides of the Salt Lick. The latter was sold a little more than a year later to Minna Du Bois and another party, and, for a half a century, this side of the river was the better settled. Correspondence with descendants of the Strongs, who may, possibly, be found at Homer and Lansingville, New York, would doubtless add to information respecting life at "The Bend" in 1787. Except for my weakened eyes it would be a delight to follow up such clues as I have; as it is, I can only express my most hearty sympathy with the movement already inaugurated, and commend it urgently to all whose interest in the compilation of the county annals was so cheering to me years ago. In any case, the Hallstead side of the river at Great Bend seems the most desirable place at which to celebrate the county's centennial."

The matter has already been taken in hand by citizens of the county at a public meeting and a committee has been appointed to make the necessary arrangements.

#### Captain John Fries.

The following is from Gen. W. W. H. Davis, of Doylestown, Bucks Co., Pa., in reply to an inquiry concerning the Fries Rebellion. He says:

"John Fries was a native of Hatfield Township, Montgomery Co., from about 1750, and married Mary Brunner, of Whitmarsh, at twenty. Five years afterward he removed to Milford Township, Bucks Co., where he spent his life. He died about 1820. Fries was a soldier of the Revolution. In 1860 I wrote the 'History of the Milford Rebellion,' but it was never printed in book form.

W. W. H. DAVIS."

June 1, 1887.

#### "Histoire de la Pensylvanie."

Hon. Steuben Jenkins, of Wyoming, has a rare history of Pennsylvania 119 years old with the following title page:

Histoire  
Naturelle Et Politique  
De la  
Pensylvanie,  
Et  
De l'établissement  
Des Quakers  
Dans Cette Contree.  
Traduite de l'Allemand.  
P. M. D. S. Censeur Royal  
Precedée d'une Carte Geographique.

A Paris.

Chez Geneau, Libraire, Rue S. Severin.

Auz Armes de Dombes.

M.DCC.LXVIII.

Avec Approbation & Privilège du Roi.

Mr. Jenkins has the following to say of the old history in *Notes and Queries* (Harrisburg):

This book was originally written and published in German about 1755 and subsequently was translated and published in French in 1768. (Referred to in *Notes and Queries* historical, vol. 1, p. 581.) It was thought to have been written for the purpose of staying the tide of migration to this country from Germany, and was translated and published in France for the same purpose. It gives a somewhat gloomy view of the situation of affairs in this country for the foreign emigrant, especially of the German portion, who came without means and were sold to pay the expense of the voyage. The writer was Gottlieb Von Mittelberger, and it was translated into French by M. Rousset de Surgy.

The author commences as follows:

"I departed in the month of May, 1750, from Enzweyningen, my country, in the bailiwick of Vaihingen, and went to Hailbroun, where I found an organ destined for Philadelphia, in Pennsylvania. I took charge of it and embarked myself on the Rhine for Rotterdam. From there I went to Kaupp, in England, on a vessel which transported to America about 400 persons from Germany, from the Cantons of Württemberg, from Dourlach, from the Palatinat and from Switzerland. After nine days in port, we spread our sails, and in fine landed on the 10th of October, 1750, at Philadelphia, the capital of Pennsylvania."

He exaggerates the length and hardships of the voyage, making the distance 1,700 leagues, and the time six months. He particularly descants upon the foul air in the vessels, the diseases engendered, want of care and proper food, etc., which renders those diseases more virulent and fatal, and





in every way seeks to make a sea voyage from Germany a terror to his readers.

He concludes his discussion of these points by the following reflection:

"Happy, if this recital will open the eyes of the people of Germany, and bring the Princes and Lords of the Empire to close the entry of their Ports to these odious traffickers in men, whose labors tend only to depopulate that country."

He gives the following cost of a passage: Every person above ten years of age, from Rotterdam to Philadelphia, 60 florins of Holland, or 63 livres of France. From 5 to 10,  $\frac{1}{2}$  passage or 30 florins. Below 5 years the children pay nothing, but they pay enough for this passage gratis, as the bad weather they get costs the life of the greater number.

#### Mrs. Laura Downing Dead.

The death of a long time resident of the valley, Mrs. Laura Downing, aged 86 years, occurred on Monday, July 18, at Larksville, Plymouth Township. Mrs. Downing had been ill but one day, her death being entirely unexpected by her friends who had seen her in apparent health but a few days ago.

Mrs. Downing was of staunch Wyoming stock, her father, Samuel Carey, having been captured at the massacre in 1778 and held a prisoner by the Indians for 6 years. Owing to his great skill with the rifle Carey was not massacred as were many prisoners, and though he went through severe tortures of which he often spoke afterwards, he was liberated by the Indians in 1784, as a reward for his utility to them in the hunt. He then came to Plains, married and raised a family of children, dying at the ripe age of 80 years.

His daughter Laura married Martin Downing, third son of Reuben Downing who came to this valley from Connecticut with the Slocum family early in the settlement of the Wyoming region and lived in a log house on Main Street, where now is the Christel Block. Martin Downing died many years ago. Mrs. Laura Downing was the mother of Bradley Downing of Pittston, who has for more than 20 years been connected with the Pennsylvania Coal Co. She lived all but the last ten years of her life in Plains and Wilkes-Barre, passing her last days on a farm in Plymouth Township for which she had exchanged property in Plains. She raised a family of children, four of whom survive her, two sons and two daughters, the youngest a son aged 52 years.

She is survived by an older sister, Mrs. Sarah Williams, of Plains, now 90 years of

age. A brother also lived to be 90, the family showing remarkable vitality.

Mrs. Downing was for years a communicant of the M. E. Church and was a woman of strong Christian character. The funeral took place on July 20 at 2 p.m., with interment in Hollenback Cemetery.

The union of the Carey and Downing families was remarkably close in the last generation. Reuben Downing had four sons and two daughters, Bateman, Arnold, Martin, Elias, Sarepta and Ann. Of these, Martin married Laura Carey, Bateman married a daughter of Benjamin Carey and Ann married George Carey, the last of Huntington Township. Sarepta married Jonas Hartzell, of Hanover. Elias married Jane Dana.

Bateman was the father of the present Reuben Downing, was born in 1795 and when 16 years of age acted as drummer boy with the recruiting officers for the War of 1812. He was twice treasurer of Luzerne County, took the census of 1840, which is still on file in the commissioners' office, and for 40 years was a justice of the peace in Hanover.

#### Mrs. Margaret Roderick Dead.

The death of Mrs. Margaret Roberts Roderick occurred July 24 quite suddenly at the residence of her sister Mrs. B. Armstrong, on North Franklin Street. Mrs. Roderick had been ill for the last three months, having been attacked with what was believed to be malarial fever at her brother's home in Lake Forest, a suburb of Chicago. She was treated there for malaria but appeared to get no better, and ten days' ago, hoping that a change of scene and air would work an improvement, she came to Wilkes-Barre.

Deceased was born in Aberystwyth, South Wales, in 1837 and came to America about 10 years later. In 1850 she became the wife of the late John Roderick, whose death occurred 7 years ago, while his wife was in midocean, on her way to Europe. He was for a time a dry goods merchant and later a druggist, being located in the building now occupied by Lincoln's pharmacy.

Mr. and Mrs. Roderick had no children. After her husband's death Mrs. Roderick made her home with her brother, Rev. Dr. Wm. C. Roberts, president of the Northwestern University, at Lake Forest, spending much of her time, however, with her sister, Mrs. Armstrong, of this city. Mrs. Roderick leaves also another brother, David E. Roberts, superintendent of the Ferrel Engine Works, of Ansonia, Conn., father of Miss Fannie Roberts who is a frequent guest of her aunt in this city.





### An Aged Lady's Death.

Mrs. Nancy N. Wright, of Salem, Wayne Co., died on Monday morning, July 18, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. G. W. Simons, with whom she had lived for many years. She had been in poor health for the last 25 years, but was not confined to her bed until a fortnight ago, when pleurisy developed, probably the result of an attack of pneumonia passed through last winter, leaving her system much weakened. Mrs. Wright was a patient sufferer and retained her faculties up to the last day. She was a member of the Salem Presbyterian Church in whose communion she lived for 65 years and in the comfort of whose doctrines she fearlessly faced the destroyer, passing away without a struggle, at the advanced age of 85 years.

Mrs. Wright was born in Connecticut March 15, 1802, and was the daughter of Seth and Polly Grover Goodrich. Her father removed to Salem in 1804, when Wayne County was almost entirely a wilderness. He built a home at Little Meadows, which was on the traveled road from the Delaware River to Wyoming Valley, and therefore a point well known to travelers of that early day.

Deceased married Zenas Nicholson, March 15, 1819, at Salem and became the mother of ten children, of them are now living Mrs. Mary E. Leonard, Emeline G., wife of G. W. Simons, of Salem; J. Milton Nicholson, of Kingston, Oscar F. Nicholson, E. q., of Wilkes-Barre, and Amelia A., wife of Rev. S. M. Bronson, of Evansville, Minn.

Of the deceased children G. Byron Nicholson, Esq., of the Luzerne Bar, was a son; another was Lyman R., also a Wilkes-Barre lawyer, who lost his life at the battle of Gettysburg, he being temporarily in command of Co. B. 143d Regiment, P. V.; still another son, was Seth G., who was in the mercantile business in Wayne Co. A stepson was Horatio W., also a Wilkes-Barre lawyer, whose death occurred before the war.

Her husband having died in 1852, she two years later married Erastus Wright, M. D., a prominent physician of Wayne County, his death occurring in 1860.

Mrs. Wright was gifted with an excellent memory, which made her society most attractive at all times. All the events in her own life as also those in the lives of her children and their children were ever fresh to her recollection. Unlike some aged people she did not live entirely in the past but was absorbed in all the duties and pleasures of the present, she finding an unending spring of happiness in the company of those who called her mother, grand-mother and great-grand-mother, there being several of

the latter. In the details of the life of all of these her memory was remarkable.

Mrs. Wright was one of nature's true nobility. As a wife, and a mother, she loved and was loved. In her character were interwoven all the graces which give loveliness to human life and in her daily walk and conversation she exemplified the christian principles which she earnestly, though not ostentatiously, professed. In her death not only her immediate family circle mourn but their grief is shared by the entire community in which she lived and by all who came in contact with her.

On the occasion of her 85th birthday, in March last, a family reunion was held in Salem, at which there was a large and happy gathering. If there was any dimming of her faculties then it was not noticeable and few thought the anniversary would be her last, in such good health was she.

P. G. Goodrich, of Bethany, Wayne Co., author of the "History of Wayne County," is a brother of deceased.

Dr. H. Hollister, of Providence, author of the "History of Lackawanna County" is a nephew of the deceased, his mother having been a sister.

### DEATH OF GEORGE WORRALL.

**A Former Wilkes-Barrean Who Helped to Build Elmira Passes Away.**

George Worrall, a resident of Elmira for many years, died at his home in that city on Thursday afternoon at 5 o'clock. He had been sick about six months, although not confined to his bed until the Monday previous. Death resulted from Bright's disease. Mr. Worrall was born sixty-three years ago in Wilkes-Barre, and spent the last thirty two years of his life in a continuous residence in Elmira. He was always an active and intelligent business man. At different times in his business career he had been associated with the Nobles Manufacturing Co. and with the company that operated the woolen mills. But he was chiefly known as a successful coal dealer. He brought the first cargo of Pittston coal to Elmira in a canal boat on the once prosperous Chemung Canal, and was the first to introduce the product of the Pittston mines into Rochester and other cities.

In political life Mr. Worrall was not unknown, serving several terms as member of the Common Council and Board of Supervisors. These trusts were discharged to the credit of himself and the satisfaction of his constituents in the Third Ward. He was a member of St. Omer's Commandery and was connected with Grace Episcopal Church.

The family consists of a wife, two sons, James L. Worrall, of Elmira, and George H. Worrall, of Rochester, and two daughters,





Mrs. W. L. Raeder and Mrs. L. B. Landmesser, of Wilkes-Barre. The funeral will be held from the residence, 511 William Street, Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock.—*Elmira Advertiser, July 29.*

#### Death of John K. Woodward.

About 5:30 am. August 16, John K. Woodward died at the Luzerne House after a long and painful illness of rheumatism. The news of his death was no surprise, it having been known for some little time past that the end could not be averted much longer. He had suffered for many years from his malady, which nearly 10 years ago incapacitated him from any further active business life.

He was born in this city 43 years ago, being the fourth son of the late Chief Justice Woodward. He had resided all his life in this vicinity except during the time he was a student in Kenyon College at Gambier, O., from which institution he graduated in 1865. For a year or two subsequent to this date he lived at Pittston, where he was engaged in the book business, and later he occupied a position in the telegraph department of the L. V. RR. Co., which he was compelled by ill health to resign. From that time he took no further active share in business life. He visited many of the well-known health resorts, in the hope of eradicating the disease from which he suffered, but without gaining anything but very temporary relief. He had suffered greatly at intervals during the past ten years, and the last attack, which prostrated him some months ago, defied all the efforts of his physicians.

His death will be sincerely mourned by a very large circle of friends, to whom the many fine and noble traits of character had endeared him. His disposition was singularly attractive. Despite the suffering which his disease entailed, he was always cheerful, and displayed in battling with the ravages of his malady a power of endurance and a calm heroism which is not frequently met with. His intellect was a polished and well balanced one, his judgment in all matters of business and social life, sound. He was always a lover of music in all its forms and was a vocalist of no ordinary ability. For many years he led the choir of St. Stephen's Church.

He never married and is survived by three brothers, Judge Stanley Woodward, Col. George A. Woodward, of the U. S. A., and Charles F. Woodward, of Philadelphia, and one sister, Mrs. E. Greenough Scott. Two other sisters, Mrs. J. Pryor Williamson and Mrs. E. A. Hancock, are now dead. The

funeral took place Thursday at 4 pm. from the residence of Judge Woodward on River Street.

#### THE FUNERAL.

All that was mortal of the late John K. Woodward was laid to rest in mother earth Thursday, August 18. The interment was made in the Woodward family plot at Hollenback Cemetery. Shortly after three o'clock the friends of deceased and representative citizens wended their way to Judge Woodward's mansion on River Street, where the body lay in state, in a beautiful black cloth covered casket, lined with satin and with heavy mountings of oxydized silver. The features were a little worn, but very life-like. At four o'clock the religious services began, Rev. H. E. Hayden, of this city, assisted by Rev. D. Webster Coxe, of Pittston, officiating. Rev. Mr. Coxe was a class mate of deceased at Kenyon College, and it was therefore very appropriate that he should be selected to officiate.

Rev. H. E. Hayden then read the funeral services of the Episcopal Church and Miss Cornelia Hillman, Mrs. John Thomas, Frank Puckey and John Thomas sang Mr. Woodward's favorite hymn, the opening verse of which is as follows:

Prayer is the soul's sincere desire,  
Utter'd or unexpress'd;  
The motion of a hidden fire  
That trembles in the breast.

The remains were then turned over to the pall bearers: John McGahren, Esq., W. H. Clark, B. F. Myers, John S. Cramer, Frank Puckey and John Hughes.

The funeral cortege was a large one and it was 5:30 before the cemetery was reached. Rev. Mr. Coxe recited the last prayer and pronounced the benediction.

The floral offerings were handsome. The Luzerne House Quartet—Messrs. McGahren, Bachman and Clark—Mr. Woodward himself having been a member—sent a pillow with a measure of a staff of music in the centre and the musical sign for "Rest," a little lower down. Mr. and Mrs. Ziegler of the Luzerne House contributed a beautiful cross and other friends a large wreath.

#### Death of Mrs. Eliza Pryor.

About 5 o'clock Sunday, August 21, Mrs. Eliza M. Pryor, widow of the late William Pryor, died at her residence, 41 Hanover Street, aged 81 years, of general debility consequent on old age. She was born in Northampton County, and was the daughter of Thomas Quick who lived to be 99 years of age. She was an earnest member of the Presbyterian Church and highly esteemed by all who knew her. She leaves three adult children, Sarah, James M. and Thomas





Pryor. She was a sister of Thomas Quick, of South Wilkes-Barre, and is also survived by a sister, Mrs. Avery Hurlbut. The funeral took place on Tuesday at 4 pm. from her late home with interment in Hollenback Cemetery.

#### Death of Mr. Dowling.

Edward F. Dowling, of Hazleton, formerly of Wilkes-Barre, died in Butler Valley on Sunday, Aug. 14 at the home of his wife's mother, Mrs. Silas Jacobs, whither he had gone a month ago in the last stages of pulmonary consumption. Mr. Dowling was graduated from Girard College, Philadelphia in 1879, since which time he principally devoted himself to school teaching, taking an active interest, however, in local politics and engaging later in journalism. He was considered one of the ablest instructors the Hazleton region ever had, County Superintendent Coughlin abundantly testifying to his worth and energy. About three years ago he married Miss Mary Jacobs, the daughter of a well-to-do farmer in the Butler and Conyngham Valleys, the result of the union being a daughter; who with the mother, survive. The *Sentinel* thus speaks of him:

Probably there were few persons any better known in Luzerne County or in the Lehigh region than he, and there were none perhaps had a larger circle of acquaintances who were friends in all that friendship defines.

After graduating from Girard College he commenced the occupation of school teaching in Wilkes-Barre where he followed it successfully until the fall of 1880 when he accepted a similar position in Butler. In Wilkes-Barre he made a brilliant record as an educator and those who were associated with him during those years testify to the correctness of this in the most eulogistic terms.

He taught but one year in Butler and when the Hazle Township School Board met to appoint teachers for the school year commencing in September, 1882, he was pointed to the principalship of the Stockton school on the splendid record he possessed as an educator. To the school board and the parents of pupils at Stockton he gave entire satisfaction, and from here he was transferred to the principalship of the Hazleton Mines school and here he successfully accomplished the management of a school, the pupils of which are to-day some of the best teachers in the public schools of this section. His was one of the brightest minds in Hazle Township institute and it is questionable whether his peer existed in that body. He was a ready debater, prompt and careful at all times, he had an extraordinary use of the English

language and never failed to call it into requisition when an occasion so demanded.

In the spring of 1886 he retired from the profession of school teaching for that of journalism, and with P. C. Kauffman, Esq., and Wm. H. Zeller purchased the *Sentinel* of C. B. Snyder. Last winter he was taken seriously ill and went South to recuperate, but the climate afforded him little relief and he returned. Since then he was unable to do any active labor. He continued his interest in the *Sentinel* until it was purchased by the present firm. He was the Hazleton correspondent of the *Elmira Telegram* and his productions were eagerly sought and widely read. As a journalist he had but few equals in this section. He was distinguished for qualities that excite admiration among the fraternity, fearless and independent, expressing a vigorous opinion at all times. He was aged thirty years. The funeral takes place Tuesday at 2 pm. Interment in Seybertsville cemetery.

#### Senator Williams' Mother Dead.

Mrs. Rachel Theophilus, the mother of Senator Morgan B. Williams, died at Nanticoke on Friday, August 19, after an illness of about one month. She was born in Rhadrirmwyn, Carmarthenshire, South Wales, in 1811, and was consequently 76 years of age. Mrs. Theophilus was twice married, and was the mother of nine children, eight by her first and one by her second husband. She has been a widow for thirty years. Her surviving children by the first husband, William Williams, whom she married in 1828, are Senator M. B. Williams, of this city; Daniel Williams, a contractor and builder at Scranton; a sister who resides in Somersetshire, England; William J. P. Williams, formerly of this city, but now of Neutral Strip, New Mexico; Mrs. David W. Evans, of Nanticoke, with whom Mrs. Theophilus lived. Timothy Theophilus is the only child by the second marriage, and is a tunnel contractor, living in this city, but is now on a visit to Wales. His father was William Theophilus and he married deceased in 1841.

Mrs. Theophilus had the advantage of having an early religious training, and had been from childhood connected with religious organizations. At the time of her death she was a member in good standing in the Welsh Presbyterian Church in this city. During her entire life in Wales she resided in the same house in Pentwyn for a period of fifty-five years. Since she came to this city from Wales about five years ago she has not been in good health, and during the last three years had been obliged to keep in the house except in pleasant weather. The interment was in Hollenback cemetery on Monday.





**An Old Citizen's Death.**

Mr. Richard Anthony the pioneer iron fence builder of this district died Thursday Aug. 25 aged 78 years. He was a native of Monmouthshire England, and came to this country some 25 years ago settling first in Scranton and subsequently in this city. He had been engaged all his life in iron working and his devices and improvements in the manufacture of iron rails have been specially valuable. During his active career in this country he was a prolific patentee of railway chairs, fence posts, wheels, bedsteads and etc. One patent especially attracted attention for placing a steel cap on old iron rails, but unfortunately the Bessemer process came out soon after, reducing the cost of steel rails, and the patent was dropped.

He achieved a great success in iron fence building and his styles and methods of manufacture are now the standard of all fence makers. The Eagle Iron Works is the outcome of his planting and of which his son Edward is the active superintendent. Genial in manner, charitable to a fault in disposition, he passed away amid the grief of his children and with the respect of a large circle of fellow citizens.

**Mrs. S. S. Weller Dead.**

On Monday morning, August 8, Rebekah E., wife of S. S. Weller, died at the residence of her sister, Mrs. William Tuck, 78 North Franklin Street, where she and her husband have been living for some time. She had not been in very good health for some weeks and on Sunday morning was stricken with paralysis and though she seemed at first to rally to some extent she became worse during Monday and rapidly sank into her last sleep.

She was 49 years of age, having been born in Holidaysburg, Blair County, March 17, 1838. She was a woman active in all works of charity and religion. She was a prominent member of the First Presbyterian Church, one of the managers of the Home for Friendless Children and connected with other charitable associations. She leaves no children, but is survived by her mother, Mrs. Dean, her sister and two brothers.

**Death of A. M. Jeffords.**

Shortly after 10 o'clock Wednesday, Aug. 24, A. M. Jeffords died at his residence, 273 South Franklin Street, after a long illness, aged 73 years. He was well known throughout the whole county and had many friends in this city. He was at one time proprietor of a store in Wyoming and subsequently conducted the Luzerne House at West Pittston, and the hostelry now known as Steele's

Hotel at Wyoming. He was twice married. His first wife was a daughter of James Jenkins and a sister of Hon. Steuben Jenkins. After her death he married the widow of Daniel Lazarus, by whom he is survived. He had resided in this city for a number of years and until incapacitated by his malady was engaged in various commercial enterprises. The funeral was held from his late residence on Friday at 2 pm., with interment at Forty Fort Cemetery.

**MARRIED FIFTY YEARS.****A Delightful Anniversary—A Remarkable Family History—Death has Left Its Ranks Unbroken.**

The instances in which man and wife are permitted to enjoy unbroken the marriage tie for half a century, are few indeed. Yet Calvin Parsons and his good wife have been thus spared, and on Aug. 17 they celebrated most auspiciously their golden wedding at their charming home in Parsons. To make the event more striking than usual, all the children born to them are living and were present. They are Major Oliver A. Parsons, Louisa A., wife of C. P. Kidder, Almada A., widow of Emanuel C. Cole, Anna Dana, wife of Geo. W. Fish, of Waverly, and Hezekiah. There are 13 grandchildren, all of whom were present.

The greensward on the spacious grounds never looked fresher, and the capacious mansion had on its brightest holiday garb. From 3 in the afternoon until late in the evening a steady stream of friends poured into the mansion, tarrying long enough to present their compliments and have a pleasant chat, to say nothing of partaking of the most toothsome refreshments—salads, sandwiches, fruit, ice cream, coffee, etc.

The bride and groom of 50 years ago received in the parlor and drawing room and they looked so young that the observer could scarcely believe that they were the principals in the golden wedding. They both retain their youth to a surprising degree and none enjoyed the reunion more than they. Mr. Parsons was ubiquitous in his attention upon his guests and the only regret he had was that he had not provided an album in which all should register their names. His children, children-in-law and grand-children were also unceasing in their care for the friends who had assembled.

The drawing room mantel was screened by a bank of hydrangia, sunflowers, ground





pine and ferns. On the parlor mantel was a beautiful floral offering from Hon. and Mrs. Charles A. Miner. On the mantels and window sills were vases of beautiful flowers. Among the other floral decorations was a beautiful tribute from Mr. Parsons' associates in the directory of the People's Bank. Against the mirror were the figures in gold, 1837-1887. In the parlor were two beautiful chairs presented by the children and a cherry table presented by the younger grandchildren. The guests had been requested in the invitation to bring no presents and the wish was respected. The tables in the dining room were lighted with candelabra, as were also the mantels in the parlor and drawing room.

The tables were waited on by some of the grand-children, Miss Mame Kidder and Calvin Kidder, of Wilkes-Barre, and by Miss Manness, of Scranton, a sister of Mrs. H. Parsons. Guests were received at the door by two little grand-children, Clarence Kidder and Harry Fish; up stairs by Anna and Edna Cole and Ruth and Alice Fish.

Among the callers were the following, many of them accompanied by members of their families:—N. Rutter, A. T. McClintock, Wesley Johnson, W. S. Wells, Rev. H. E. Hayden, Rev. H. H. Welles, S. H. Lynch, Judge Dana, G. M. Miller, R. J. Flick, J. W. Hollenback, H. Baker Hillman, A. J. Davis, Hon. Charles A. Miner, C. W. Bixby, Wm. P. Miner and daughters, Miss Jane Miner, Miss Laura Brower, Dr. J. L. Miner, E. C. Johnson, Dr. Murphy, Wm. Dickover, Mrs. Koerner, Miss Anhiser, Mrs. Rhoads, Mrs. Priestly Johnson, Rev. W. J. Day, Isaac M. Thomas, Rev. Dr. F. B. Hodge, W. S. Parsons, Dr. C. S. Beck, Rev. H. E. Spayd, C. P. Kidder, J. C. Jeffries, W. F. Bailey, Geo. Loveland, B. M. Espy, Mrs. F. W. Hunt, Mrs. C. F. Reets.

There were also present among others: From Scranton: C. F. Mattes and daughters, Mary and Nell, Mr. and Mrs. Olmstead, Mrs. McKinny, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Manness and daughter, Mary, Paul Weitzell, Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Shotton, Mrs. Edgerton; Mrs. Wilcox and daughter, Earlville, N. Y.; Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Wood, Trenton, N. J.; Lawrence Ladd, Springfield, Mass.; Hon. and Mrs. Steuben Jenkins, Wyoming; Mrs. Huldah Crumb and Mrs. Carincoff, Smyrna, N. Y.; Mrs. Atkins, Mrs. Henry Green, Earlville, N. Y.; Dr. Charles Dana, Frank Piatt, Mrs. Wheelock, Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Metcalfe, Mr. and Mrs. Streeter, and others Tunkhannock; Alva Tompkins and Dr. and Mrs. N. G. Parke, Pittston; S. A. Metcalfe, B. W. Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Metcalf, Tunkhannock; John R. Fordham and wife, Green Ridge; Mrs. Park, of Easton; Dr. J. J. Rogers, of Huntsville; Dr. and Mrs. Underwood, of

Pittston; W. P. Johnson and wife, of Ketcham; from Parsons—Rev. Dr. Y. C. Smith, wife and daughter, Capt. Colvin and wife, John Bowers and wife, Daniel W. Kumball and wife, Lieut. Moore and wife, George Davis and wife, Mrs. Elston, Mrs. Rhodes, Dr. Mebane.

Among those from whom regrets were received were these: Sarah B. Lyman, Lakeville, Conn.; E. K. Morse, Granby, Conn.; Fannie Dana, Morrisville, Pa.; Anna Lothrop, Trenton; O. S. Mills, Tunkhannock; Daniel Phelps, Warehouse Point, Conn.; E. G. McCarragher, Roaring Brook; Eunice Dana, Trenton; Dr. O'Neal, Gettysburg; Mrs. E. E. Thomas, Nantucket; John Alderson, Walter H. O'Neil, Gettysburg; Stephen Miller, Old Forge; Elizabeth D. Strong, Pittston; E. G. Tracy, Waverly, N. Y.; Dr. Bedford, Waverly, Pa.; Mrs. Dr. Oliver, Elizabeth, N. J.; Mr. and Mrs. Ingalls, Little Falls; Dr. and Mrs. Johnson, Waverly, N. Y.; Selden Scranton, Oxford, N. J.; B. Courtright, Orange; F. B. Davison, Fleetville, Pa.; Taylor and Eva Parsons, Springfield, Mass.; D. F. Parsons, Earlville, N. Y.; Rev. and Mrs. Taylor, Waverly, N. Y.; S. E. Raynor, Carbondale; Dilton Yarrington, Carbondale; Miss N. G. Pease, Milton, Conn.; Lettie Thomas Sturdevant, Naticoke; from Scranton—Dr. Throop, Mrs. H. B. Phelps, Mrs. A. N. Decker, Dr. and Mrs. Hollister, Hon. and Mrs. J. A. Scranton, Mrs. J. C. Phelps, W. F. Mattes, R. A. Squires; from Wilkes-Barre—E. S. Loop, A. H. Dickson, Miss Natalie Rutter, Dr. and Mrs. Urquhart, F. J. Leavenworth, W. W. Loomis.

Among the regrets was a beautiful one from Rev. Dr. S. C. Logan, of Scranton, who was married on the same date, 35 years ago.

The bride's cake was an elaborate specimen of the baker's art and was decorated with gold, also bearing the anniversary date.

A most interesting feature of the event was the reading of an original poem suitable for the occasion, by C. P. Kidder, Esq., for which we regret we have not room.

Mr. and Mrs. Parsons were married in Enfield, Conn., and one of the guests at the wedding was present at the golden wedding, Mrs. Parsons' brother, John C. Parsons, of Iowa. Of the 72 guests at the wedding seven are living: Mrs. Parsons' sister, Elizabeth, P. Barber, of East Windsor, Conn., who stood up with the bride, also Miss Pease and Mrs. Parsons' aunt, Mrs. Phelps, of Enfield. Wm. P. Miner was at the infare, as also his sister, Mrs. Jessie Thomas. Two cousins in Illinois, Mrs. Elias Downing and Mrs. John Williamson, also at the infare, are living.





## THE FLIGHT FROM WYOMING.

An Address at the Meeting of the Wyoming Commemorative Association, July 2, 1887, by W. A. Wilcox, Esq.

The matchless beauty of this Valley of Wyoming has frequently been the inspiration of the pen of the poet and of the pencil and brush of the artist. The story of the battle and massacre has been told again and again, in prose and in verse, with painstaking elaboration of detail and in the quick sentences of passionate eloquence, until it is as familiar, as it deserves to be, not only in the homes of the valley and in the widely scattered homes of the descendants of the patriots, but wherever the English language is known and wherever patriotism dwells. The names of those who fought have been reverently gathered and are here fittingly inscribed on this monument erected to their memory. The influence of the event on the final result of the war for independence has been ably discussed and its importance so clearly shown that it is now conceded by all. The questions of title and of jurisdiction have been exhaustively treated and long since happily settled. Passing all of these by as matters familiar to you, I shall try to stir your love of country and of home, (which I take it is the proper object of this gathering), by recounting some of the particulars of the flight of the inhabitants.

Justice and gratitude demand that we remember not only the valor of the soldiers who fought on that eventful third of July, but as well the sufferings and fortitude and endurance of the noble women of Wyoming.

Let us first glance at the geographical position and surroundings of Wyoming. It was an isolated community, almost embosomed in the country of a savage enemy. "The Six Nations," a confederation of powerful and warlike Indian tribes, occupied Central and Western New York, with prominent towns at Geneva, (Kanadesagua), Tioga, Chemung and other points to the north and west of Wyoming. Niagara, occupied by the British, was the stronghold from which British, Indians and Tories sallied forth on their expeditions against the settlers of different parts of the country. "It was the depot of their plunder: there they planned their forays, and there they returned to feast until the time for action should come again."

To Shamokin or Sunbury, the nearest inhabited post down the river was seventy miles.

Between the Susquehanna and the Delaware rivers are two mountain ranges. The one next the Susquehanna is the Moosic range, or Pocono. To the south-east of Wyoming it is a plateau or table-land 800 to 1,400 feet above the valley. The greater part of this plateau is to this day a perfect wilderness, parts of it covered with a dense primeval forest growth of pines, spruces, balsams, etc. Here are found also in places the heaths, orchids and sedges of Labrador and Northern Europe, almost on their southern limit. Much of this wilderness is very swampy and there are large tracts, miles in extent, covered with bogs and marshes.

Col. John Jenkins, writing March 14, 1756, says: "Great Swamp lies about forty miles west south-west from Cashuetunk or Station Point; from Bethlehem about forty-five miles north-north-west; from Guadenhatten about twenty-three miles north, something west. This swamp lies just over the mountains which Evans calls Cashuetunk Mountains, and is twenty-five miles from north to south and fifteen miles from east to west. The Bethlehem people say four or five hundred Indians keep in this swamp, and from thence 'tis imagined they send out parties to destroy the settlements."

Some idea of what this immense wilderness is, can be formed from a ride over the D., L. & W. RR. to the Water Gap. Beyond this plateau, lying northeast and southwest, is a valley in which flow towards the south the Lehigh River and its tributaries, the Tobyhanna and Tunkhannock Creeks, and in the other direction the Wallenpaupack and the Shohola Creeks. Across this valley from us is the Blue Mountain, with its Wind Gap and Water Gap.

This region can hardly be called, as Stone has it, a pathless one. There were Indian trails crossing it towards the Southeast, perfectly familiar, doubtless, to the savages and more or less so to the settlers, though it can hardly be presumed that they were practically so to the women and children.

These paths or trails are described as being remarkable for their directness. They preferred hill-sides to ravines and close valleys, were conveniently wide for foot travel, and frequently in favorable soil worn to a depth of one or two feet, or even more.

One of them was known as the "Warriors' Path." It led from Wyoming to Fort Allen, now Weissport, on the Lehigh. It was laid down on the old maps and surveys and in 1844 was still a well beaten path, used by people in crossing the mountain from Hanover.

Another led through the marshes already mentioned, to Stroudsburg, then known





by the name of Fort Penn. This route had been used by most of the settlers coming into the valley, and some ten years before they had determined on opening it as a road. This had, however, not been accomplished, and was not until Gen. Sullivan came in, in the Summer of 1779.

Another trail lay up the Lackawanna by Capouse Meadows and the Lackawaxen. Having reached the Delaware the route was up the river to the Minisink country, thence across to Newburgh and Poughkeepsie, and to Connecticut and Rhode Island.

The number of those to whom, in the spring of 1778, the valley was home, was not far from 4,000 in the aggregate. About 200 of these were absent with Washington's army. Between three and four hundred fell in the battle and massacre. The number of those, then, who sought safety in flight was probably a little in excess of three thousand, men, women and children. It is with these 3,000 we have now to deal.

The terrible odds of the conflict while not positively known had been feared by all. And while husbands and fathers and sons made preparation for the battle mothers and children anticipated the worst, and prepared for flight.

Word had been sent out on Thursday, and the inhabitants were gathered, most of them in Forty Fort, some in Pittston and Wilkes-Barre Forts.

These women who had been accustomed to pioneer life, who, while the men were away on public duty had cheerfully assumed the work of planting and harvesting,—who had leached ashes and earth to make saltpetre for gunpowder,—who could load a musket and adjust a flint, were not the women to sit down despairingly while there was anything for them to do. What preparation could be made for the journey had been made, and before day-break of Saturday, the day following the battle, the majority had turned their faces towards Shamokin and towards Connecticut.

Let us take Miner's description of the flight, borrowed by him largely from earlier accounts. A few who had escaped came rushing into Wilkes-Barre Fort where trembling with anxiety the women and children were gathered, waiting the dread issue. The appalling "*all is lost!*" proclaimed their utter destitution. They fly to the mountains—evening is approaching—the dreary swamp and "The Shades of Death" before them,—the victorious hell-hounds are opening on their track. They look back on the valley—all around the flames of desolation are kindling; they cast their eyes in the range of the battle field,—numerous fires speak their own horrid purpose. They

listen! The exulting yell of the savage strikes the ear! Again! A shriek of agonizing woe! Who is the sufferer? Is it the husband of one who is gazing! The father of her children!?

O God, who art the widow's friend,  
Be thou her comforter.

Their flight was a scene of wide-spread and harrowing sorrow. Their dispersion being in an hour of the wildest terror, the people were scattered, singly, in pairs, and in larger groups, as chance separated them or threw them together in that sad hour of peril and distress. Let the mind picture to itself a single group, flying from the valley to the mountains on the east, and climbing the steep ascent—hurrying onward, filled with terror, despair and sorrow—the affrighted mother whose husband has fallen—an infant on her bosom, a child by the hand, an aged parent slowly climbing the rugged steep behind them; hunger presses them severely; in the rustling of every leaf they hear the approaching savage, a deep and dreary wild-erness is before them, the valley all in flames behind, their dwellings and harvests all swept away in this spring flood of ruin, the star of hope quenched in this blood shower of savage vengeance.

There is no work of fancy in a sketch like this. Indeed it cannot approach the reality. There were in one of these groups that crossed the mountains on the Warriors' Path one hundred women and children, and but a single man, Jonathan Fitch, Esq., sheriff of Westmoreland to aid, direct and protect them.

Botta, in his history of the Revolutionary war, in concluding his account of the Massacre of Wyoming, says: "Those who survived the massacre were no less worthy of our commiseration. They were women and children who had escaped to the mountains at the time their husbands, fathers and friends expired under the blows of the barbarians. Dispersed and wandering in the wilderness as chance and fear directed their steps, without clothes, without food, without guide, these defenceless fugitives suffered every degree of distress. Several of the women were delivered alone in the woods at a great distance from every possibility of relief or help. The most robust and resolute only escaped, the others perished; their bodies and those of their helpless infants became the prey of wild beasts."

The majority of the settlers had fled Friday night; others, a large number, set out Saturday night, while there were those, some of them detained by savages, some by different necessities, who remained still longer. They may have been more confi-





dent of the humanity of Col. Butler, and of their Tory neighbors, and afterwards relied on the pledges of the articles of capitulation. A few instances will suffice to show how those pledges were kept:

Jonathan Weeks, whose three sons fell in the battle with four others of his household, seven in all, was one of those to remain. A band of savages, led by one called Turkey, visited his house, and after destroying property and submitting him to indignities at their hands, gave him three days to remove with his family. His house and property were then burned.

Mr. Hickman, his wife and child were murdered at Capouse the day after the battle.

James Adam Leach and Daniel St. John, attempting to leave in the direction of Capouse, were murdered about a mile above Old Forge.

Timothy Keys and Solomon Hocksey were taken captive, carried northward and killed in Abington.

The treachery of the enemy and the insecurity of their position became more and more apparent every day to the settlers who had remained, and when at last they were driven from Wyoming they found themselves pursued in the same manner, and had to encounter the same privations and sufferings as did their neighbors who had preceded them. The percentage of those who survived was probably not materially different among those who fled at once and those who remained to the last.

Most of the fugitives took the Stroudsburg route over the mountain. It has already been mentioned as leading through the Pocono marshes. One of these had been known as the "Great Swamp," but it has ever since been called the "Shades of Death" because of the great number who perished there in their flight. While that number cannot be told with any degree of certainty, it may be set down as probably about two hundred.

About one-third of the whole number of fugitives, perhaps one thousand, went by canoes, rafts, etc., down the Susquehanna. Mr. Wm. MacLay, in a letter to the Council of Pennsylvania, July 12, 1778, (nine days after the battle) says: "I left Sunbury on Wednesday last. I never in my life saw such scenes of distress. The river and roads leading down it were covered with men, women and children, flying for their lives." They went from Sunbury to Harrisburg to Lancaster County, while many took their way across the mountains from Catawissa, Berwick, and other points on the Lehigh and Delaware.

The time occupied in the journey of course varied greatly. Some reached Sunbury with canoes in twenty-four hours. To

Stroudsburg was two or three days' journey. Connecticut could be reached in about two weeks. At the time of the battle Capt. Spaulding, at the head of sixty-nine men, what remained of Captains Ransom's and Durkee's companies, was on his way to the relief of Wyoming, and met the foremost of the fugitives the evening of Sunday at Bear Swamp. As his force was entirely inadequate to engage the invaders he went only to a point overlooking the valley, then disposing his forces so as to give the greatest assistance to the flying settlers, returned towards Fort Penn where he remained until August 4.

While the feelings engendered by the Pennsylvania-Connecticut question of jurisdiction found expression in many acts of barbarous inhospitality on the part of some towards the fugitives, still it is to be said that most of those with whom the fugitives came in contact were found ready to assist them in every way possible. The generous Scotch-Irish of the Paxtang settlement were particularly hospitable, and the Moravians at Bethlehem.

Let us now look at a few of the details, some of them unpublished, of this sad story. Mercy Ross, widow of Lieut. Perrin Ross and sister of Jonathan Otis, both of whom were killed in the Wyoming Massacre, gives this account of her escape:

When the news came to go into the fort she packed the papers and clothes in a chest and her pewter platters she buried with other articles in the garden. She then took her children and went into the fort (Forty Fort) the night before the battle. When the news came to the fort that our men were defeated she would not stay in the fort. A party of thirty, one old man with a horse, the rest women and children, went out of the fort at night, crossed the river at Wilkes-Barre and went up into Solomon's Gap that night. When they got into the woods they lay down to rest and sleep. They went on next day and were ten days getting through the wilderness. Hannah, (Ford) wife of Josiah Rogers, died on the route and was buried under the root of a fallen tree, and Mrs. Ross was so worn down with the excitement and fatigue of the journey and starved for want of food, that when the burial was over and the party was about to move on, Mrs. Ross said that she could go no farther and would like to be buried alongside of the other woman. She was, however, appealed to in behalf of her children, and urged to get up and go on with the party, which she was finally induced to do. They first met the abode of civilization at Allentown and stopped at the house of the people and asked for food, but were refused.





They did not go far after this before they were taken up by the Government and furnished with provisions. She had five children with her, all of whom were about naked, so badly were their clothes torn and worn in the journey. About the first of October, three months after the battle, her last child was born in Connecticut. In March, 1782, she married Samuel Allen, with whom she moved to Wyoming to the place of her former husband, Perriu Ross, on Ross Hill, in the winter of 1784-5.

The Rogers family of Plymouth, who formed part of this company in the afternoon of that fatal day, heard of the defeat and immediately set out to return to Connecticut. Having but two horses one was packed with indispensables, while one was devoted to carrying the old grandmother, who, too feeble to sit up, was held in the arms of some of the men. When they had thus traveled some six days she asked to be lain on the ground and soon after expired. Her burial has already been mentioned.

A company consisting of Mr. — Hall-dron, Mrs. — Barritt, and Mrs. — Morris set out immediately by the Warr ors' Path on hearing the result of the battle. They proceeded two miles and halted, awaiting the rising of the moon, the night being very dark. They then set out on their journey and were three days and nights in getting to Fort Allen. The second night there was a child (son) born to Mrs. Morris. Her husband was in the battle but escaped. When they reached the Lenigh a man came over the river to meet them, riding a powerful horse and bearing two jugs of milk and a bag of biscuits. He fed them and helped them to cross the river. In three weeks they reached their destination in Connecticut.

One hundred and eighty women and children, with thirteen men, having been detained by the Indians and plundered, were sent off in one company three or four days after the battle, bare footed, bare headed and suffering for want of food.

I would like here to speak some worthy tribute to these Women of Wyoming as women. This inscription on the monument, prepared, I believe, by Mr. Edward G. Mallery, while it is very much to be admired as being noble and patriotic in sentiment, chaste and eloquent in expression, and accurately truthful in point of fact, seems to be deficient in that it makes no recognition of the women. True, they were not in the battle; theirs was the anxiety of suspense. The men and boys who fought were patriots; their mothers had taught them patriotism. They showed a courage that deserved success; the women showed a fortitude, a faith and a power of endurance that brought final success even after defeat.

Some element of danger has always a fascination to brave hearts, but it would seem that experiences such as these, following as they did the Plunkett invasion and other features of the Pennamite war, would satisfy any with this valley. But such was not the case. Life here had been too sweet. They had come expecting to find a wilderness, and willing to bestow courageous, hard, persistent labor to make of it a home for themselves and their posterity. Coming with this expectation they had not been disappointed. They found a climate more favorable than that of their former homes. A soil that brought forth abundantly. They had established a government of their own, which, says Col. Stone, was the most thoroughly democratic probably of any government that has ever existed among civilized men. They were intelligent, honest and industrious, and they were happy.

Gold-mith's "Sweet Auburn," in its prosperous days, found a counterpart here. It is not strange that Col-ribe and Southey should associate this Wyoming with their Utopian dreams. It's quiet life was as perfect as its then unmarred landscape. And the influence of that life was sufficient to bring back many of the survivors, notwithstanding its past and future perils. Men came to take up that life where they had left it off. Widows came to mourn their dead. Those who had fled as children came again as husbands and wives. Through many more years of danger and of difficulty they defended their possessions to transmit them to their present custodians. Justice and gratitude demand from us this public recognition of their noble sacrifice. The heritage here of the present from the past consists not alone in these broad fields with their store of mineral wealth. The names and blood of the settlers and the memory of their deeds have come down. The love of liberty that dictated that form of local government established by them—the wisdom and fidelity with which it was administered—the patriotic spirit of self-sacrifice that sent, in a time of home peril, one-half the fighting men of the valley (eight times the quota) into the Revolutionary army—the noble virtues of the women which I have to-day feebly portrayed in part—let us trust that these have been transmitted. Every word, thought and look of sympathy with heroic action helps to make heroism. How fitting then are these annual gatherings of the descendants of the settlers, held in recognition of the obligation of the living to the dead. Let us ever repeat the story of these Wyoming patriots to the end that we may perpetuate in ourselves and in our children their virtues and thereby also their institutions.





## WAR AND PEACE.

**Twenty-five Years After Being Mustered Into Service the Survivors of the 143d Regiment Hold a Reunion on the Old Camp Ground.**

On the 26th of August, 1862, occurred the mustering in of the 143d Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers, and the event was properly observed Aug. 26, 1887. Heretofore the annual meeting of the veterans has been held on Nov. 7, the anniversary of the departure for the front, but the inclemency of the weather has impelled a change of date, as above. The wisdom of the change is unmistakable, as everybody present yesterday enjoyed the August weather far more than they have enjoyed the blasts of November, on a bleak hillside, in the open air.

The veterans met at the Jones House, Luzerne Borough, and had an excellent dinner, a hundred or so strong, after which they formed in line and marched to the old camping ground, headed by the Star Drum Corps of Forty Fort, and the stars and stripes, borne by O. P. Hadsel. Arrived on the hill top a hollow square was formed and Captain P. Delacy made some interesting remarks and Secretary J. H. Campbell read the minutes of last year's meeting. Captain Delacy then introduced P. H. Campbell, Esq., of the Luzerne Bar, who was a sergeant in the 107th P. V., stating that he was one of the 12 prisoners sentenced to death by Gen. Joe Johnston for firing upon a Confederate provision train. Mr. Campbell's address was a capital one and was eagerly listened to. We append a synopsis:

The speaker said that this was not the first time that he had met the 143d. He had met them at three different times while in the service. The first time was soon after they joined the 2d Brigade, 3d Division, 1st Corps, Army of the Potomac, in February, 1863. The second time was on Cemetery Hill at Gettysburg after being forced from the field, but not until they had left there over one-half of their number, either dead or wounded. The speaker here described the appearance of the men as they looked to him on that afternoon after being six hours engaged with an enemy, in a contest in which our men were outnumbered three to one. He gave a graphic account of the death of young Crippen, the color bearer of the 143d. The third and last meeting in the field with them was in front of Petersburg on the 30th of July, 1864, the day the fort was blown up. The speaker gave his experience with a mortar shell fired from the enemy's lines, which came nearly ending his usefulness as a soldier, and of his experience a few days afterwards when within the enemy's lines as a prisoner he could see the Union men and their works.

This was the 25th anniversary of the mustering into the service of the United States service. It occurred at a time when the government sorely needed aid. Three days afterward occurred the defeat at the Second Bull Run, and one week afterward Lee's invasion of Maryland and Pennsylvania. No large bounties tempted you to enlist at that time. Nor was your pay very large—\$13 per month, or about \$1.64 in gold. This included board, but not washing. The washing was done at the risk and expense of the boarder without recourse to the Government. Several instances were cited of heroic services performed by Luzerne County boys, to show that heroes do not live as far away as some are wont to imagine.

Your anniversary has been changed from the time of your leaving Camp Luzerne for the seat of war to the date of your muster into service. This latter occurs at the close of summer. With many of you it is symbolical of your lives. The great majority of you are nearing the close of life's summer, and soon will enter the autumn of life. Some since our last meeting have crossed over the river. Let us hope that they have found rest beneath the shade of the trees.

Two general officers have died in the city of Washington during the last year. Gen. Paul, who in the first day's fight at Gettysburg lost both eyes, and who for 24 years was led by his faithful wife. The other was he who as a private in the ranks of a Michigan regiment fought in the first battle of Bull Run and at the close of the war was retired as a major general. I refer to that great volunteer soldier and pure statesman, John A. Logan. However much some of us may have differed with him on political issues, we all must accord to him a sincerity of purpose and the manliness to assert them. In him the old soldier has lost a true friend.

The speaker paid a tribute to the brave and patriotic women both living and dead, who by their noble example and fidelity to the cause for which we fought, served in no small degree, to crown our cause with success.

As to the surplus in the National Treasury, the speaker favored the giving all deserving old soldiers a liberal pension. Not \$2 per month as is the case now in many instances, but a liberal pension. I know of no better way of helping to keep down the surplus than is giving us so much trouble just now. The generations that are coming after us will not begrudge the money spent in paying pensions. They will learn the magnitude of the task performed by those living in the trying times of war. They will learn that in April, 1861, the army of the United States numbered less than 14,000, and that 10,000 of those at that time were stationed





in the Southern States, leaving less than 5,000 men for duty at the North. That on the first of May, 1865, there were on the muster rolls of the army 1,000,516 men, and that in less than 60 days from the time the last rebel surrendered, this vast army had been disbanded and were again pursuing the peaceful life that they had left, some of them four years previously.

Capt. Delacy read a letter of regret from Major Thomas Chamberlain of the 150th P. V. and presented a lot of interesting matter relative to the tablet to be erected at Gettysburg to locate the position of the 143d. The committee, consisting of Gen. Dana, Col. Conyngham, Col. Reichard, Capt. Blair and Lieut. Vaughn, are to meet at Gettysburg on the first of September to make the final arrangements and it is hoped that the monument will be in place by the first of July, 1888. The monument is to be erected on the historic field of Gettysburg, upon the MacPherson farm, where the first day's fight took place, in which the First Corps sustained a loss of over 6,000 out of about 8,500 men, and at the spot where Roy Stone's, afterwards Dana's brigade of Pennsylvanians, made such a brilliant fight. The monument commemorates the heroism of the 143d Pennsylvania Volunteers, and the design illustrates one of the most heroic incidents of the war, in which Color-Sergeant Ben Crippen, of Luzerne, now Lackawanna County, was the hero. The episode is narrated as follows in Carleton's history of the war:

"General A. P. Hill, who commanded the rebels on the first day's fight at Gettysburg, gazed with admiration upon the retreating Union troops. Lieutenant Colonel Freemantle, of the English army, who rode by Hill's side as a spectator, described the thrilling scene as follows: "A Yankee color-bearer floated his standard in the field and the regiment fought around it; and when at last it was obliged to retreat, the color-bearer retired last of all, turning round now and then to shake his fist in the face of the advancing Confederates. He was shot."

The tablet is to be of granite and \$1,500 of the cost will be paid by the State, the Legislature having appropriated this amount for each regimental monument. Persons desiring to contribute can do so by purchasing photographs of the design from any of the G. A. R. veterans at one dollar each. The artist thus describes his idea of the design:

"The rough boulder is suggestive of the solid substantial record that the 143d regiment made during its entire term of service. Rough and ready, ever a rock of defense, sturdy and able to bear the brunt of the fight if needs be. No effort is made to substitute an artificial base under it. Resting

on its own base it is symbolic of the independence that characterized the 143d in the performance of every duty. On the face of this stone is chiseled the story of the Color-Sergeant Ben Crippen—young in years but old in pluck and courage, and matured in heroism. The old first corps badge looking down upon the story willing to acknowledge to the tourist and to future generations that it is proud to number the boys of the gallant 143d Pennsylvania Regiment among its defenders, and lower down in the face of the stone in close company with the dear old flag we see the brigade and division."

Gen. Edmund L. Dana, who was the regiment's colonel in the service, was loudly called for. He responded with one of his characteristically happy speeches. He complimented the address of Sergt. Campbell. It was valuable in the view of an outsider. He also complimented the ladies for their presence. The change of date of the anniversary, too, was a manifest success. The occasion marked an important date, that of the beginning of your lives as soldiers. It was a day of plumes and feathers and epaulets, but we soon found these played no real part in war. It was men that were wanted, not display. There is no pomp and splendor to-day, yet you are the men who carried the country through the greatest war in history. Few are allowed to pass through such a period as you passed through, for most generations are uneventful. You met the occasion and filled every requirement. You can fly the flags as yours, the country as yours, for you defended them. I can smell the smoke of battle now, and can hear the roar of the artillery as I look into your faces. You learned war, not in the safe retirement of West Point, but on the battle field. You are soldiers all over, through and through. We meet to see one another, not to recall experiences. There is no recalling. Your war experiences are a part of yourselves. On Aug. 26, 1863, you were near the Rapahannock. A year had passed and beardless boys had become veterans, for you had fought at Fort Royal, Chancellorville, Gettysburg. On Aug. 26, 1864, you were at Petersburg. On Aug. 26, 1865, the war was ended and you were on your way home. Alexander, Caesar, Napoleon, conquered the armies of their enemies, but never conquered their love. You did the latter and we now witness a happy, reunited and prosperous country—a proud achievement. Next month will be celebrated the Centennial of the adoption of the Federal Constitution. Where would that Constitution have been had it not been for you. You have been brave soldiers, you deserve the title Emeritus, and it becomes you as brave soldiers to be good, honest and





honorable men. [Cheers.]

Secretary Campbell read the following list of veterans present:

Gen. E. L. Dana, colonel commanding.  
Company A—Lt. W. H. Bennett, Wm. Lawbach, Rudolph Penner, J. A. Koat.  
Company B—Capt. D. C. Graham, Ira Cosner, Ira Hardy.

Company C—E. H. Groff, Geo. W. Engle, Chas. Shotten, Max Buskirk, Morris Bush, Geo. Deitrick, Wm. Keating, G. W. Keller, C. S. Gabel, F. W. Hawrecht.

Company D—Capt. P. Delacy, Lt. Wilbur F. Rice, M. M. Covert, Sergt. Thomas A. Daily, C. P. Little, Cyrus Rummage, C. J. Turpin, I. D. Willis, Aaron Porter, Ira Ransom, Charles Hoover, Henry Hockenbury.

Company E—Capt. M. L. Blair, Sergt. W. H. Harding Samuel Rogers, Daniel Hunt.

Company F—Capt. H. M. Gordon, Aaron Freeman, Sergt. Alex. McDaniels, Sergt. James Kester, J. B. Hoppes, Sergt. J. H. Campbell.

Company G—Sergt. Wm. W. Schooley, Wm. Knorr, Lyman Harris, C. D. Kunkle, Chas. A. Westfield.

Company I—F. M. Lockard, Philip S. Hartman, J. F. Moss, Wm. S. Downing, J. M. Wolfe.

Company K—Capt. O. E. Vaughn, Jacob Bono, John Wilbur, Eli Nichols, Frank Furman, Henry Maynard, Wm. Russel.

The visitors whose names were obtainable were these:

Sergt. G. W. Rimer, Sweet Valley, 149th Pa.; N. Vanarsdale, Luzerne, 58th Ill.; E. Cunningham, Nicholson, 50th N. Y. Engineers; James A. Decker, Springville, 203d Pa.; A. Aten, Luzerne, 31st N. J.; Joseph Congledon, Pleasant Hill, 151st Pa.; Robert Wallace, Luzerne, 48th Pa.; G. W. Lapha, Luzerne, 57th Ohio; P. F. Welteroth, Wilkes-Barre, 2d Conn.; Edward Hughes, Luzerne, 9th Pa. Cav.; Capt. P. H. Campbell, Wilkes-Barre, 107th Pa.; O. P. Hadsel, Scranton, 41st Pa.; Sergt. A. A. Collins, Brown Hollow, 107th Pa.; Thos. Argood, Luzerne, 53d Pa.; Dr. E. N. Banks, Wilkes-Barre, Mexican War and Rebellion in 54th Ind.; Dr. C. H. Wilson, Plymouth, surgeon, 49th Pa.; H. C. Miller, Kingston, 52d Pa.; W. L. Milham, Wilkes-Barre, 52d Pa.; Cornelius Robins, 58th Pa.; J. R. Ehret, 1st N. Y. Cav.; Col. C. K. Campbell, 142d Pa.; George Hazle, 199th Pa.; G. W. Barney, Signal Corps; Capt. C. W. Boone, 7th Cav.; Sergt. D. S. Clark, 2d Cav.; T. D. Wolf, Third Heavy Artillery.

H. H. Tyler, 84th Pa., now of Binghamton, sang in stirring manner "We've drunk from the same canteen."

Announcement was made that the ladies of Luzerne Borough desired to entertain the veterans at next year's meeting and the invitation was unanimously accepted.

F. W. Hawrecht produced the fife that he had carried through the war and into Southern prisons, and played several of the stirring airs that used to cheer the boys in the times that tried men's souls.

Capt. Vaughn and Post Commander Deitrick made brief remarks and after the final announcement the veterans formed for dress parade, were inspected by their old colonel, and then marched back to the hotel where dismissal occurred.

All the officers were re-elected—Capt. Delacy, president; Comrades Rice and Deitrick, vice presidents; Comrade Bennett, treasurer, and Comrade J. H. Campbell, secretary.

Luzerne Borough was gaily decorated.

#### West Branch History.

The *Historical Journal* (Williamsport) for September contains a fund of interesting matter pertaining to pioneer life in the West Branch region. The first installment is given of the personal journal of Hon. Samuel Maclac, who was one of the commissioners appointed by the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania to examine the territory in the northwestern part of the State lately purchased of the Indians and to discover if possible a route for a road to connect the waters of the Allegheny with the West Branch of the Susquehanna. The journal is now published for the first time and will run through several numbers.

#### GIRLS' NAMES

Some of the Quaint Ones Common a Hundred Years Ago.

In a recent communication to the *Bangor Historical Magazine*, Joseph Williamson, Esq., of Belfast, has given a list of marriages in Belfast from 1774 to 1814, inclusive. The names of most of the men are familiar to-day. We find John, James, Charles, Jacob, Henry, William, &c., occurring again and again. It is interesting to observe the names of the women. Among them are Sarah, Deborah, Lois, Keziah, Priscilla, Barsheba, Theodate, Narassa, Grizel, Rachel, Phoebe, Wealthy, Love, Charity, Temperance.

The 112 girls used but 45 Christian names among them. Polly, Betsey, Sally, Jane, Susannah, Nancy, Abigail, and Mehitable, very popular names among our grandmothers, have been put away, like the old ball dresses and high-heeled slippers that figured in society in the days of Gen. Knox. To-day, distinguished by such names as Annie, Alice, Mabel, Jennie and Grace, the beauty transmitted from other generations continues its perpetual sway. Another thing noticeable is the disappearance of such quaint names as Wealthy, Love, Charity, and Temperance.





They have gone with the Pollies and Salties. Delight alone among the names of 1887 is left to suggest that a trace of the old Puritan sentiment yet survives.

#### An Historic Island.

The late Thompson Derr, of this city, owned an island in the Susquehanna, in Dauphin County, which is thus alluded to in the *Historical Journal*, (Williamsport):

It was formerly called Juniata Island—then Duncan's Island, because a man named Duncan was the proprietor for many years. It was a favorite spot with the Indians. Two tribes once dwelt there. Tradition speaks of a great battle having been fought between the Delawares and Cayugas at an early day. It was so severely contested that the gullies ran red with the blood of the slain warriors, and the bodies of a thousand or more were buried on the field. The Delawares were defeated and driven away. When the canal was constructed hundreds of skeletons were exhumed. Rev. David Brainerd, the missionary, visited the Indians, who dwelt on the island, in 1745, but found them very savage and intractable. The earliest white settler was named Hulings. He came in 1746 and remained until about 1761, when he and his family were driven off by the Indians. The fine mansion stands on the lower end of the island and has been a conspicuous object for nearly a century. It is a substantial stone house of 20 or more rooms, grand in all its surroundings, which in early days was the headquarters for stage and packet passengers under the hospitality of Mrs. Duncan. This house is built of river stone and rough cast finish. The walls are three feet thick; all partitions are two feet stone walls to second floor. With such massive walls it will stand for ages. The house was built for Robert Calandar Duncan, son of Judge Duncan, and his wife Rebecca Huling Duncan, granddaughter of Marcus Hulings, the founder of the island. Some of the original furniture of this grand old mansion is still in the possession of P. F. Duncan (grandson of Robert C. and Rebecca H. Duncan), of Duncannon, Pa. At the death of Robert C. Duncan the property went to Mrs. Duncan, and at her death in 1850 to Dr. Thomas and Benjamin Stiles Duncan, the former's interest being sold and bought by Benjamin Stiles Duncan. At his death, in 1870, it went to his heirs, namely: Mary L. Jane M., Priscy M. and P. F. Duncan. When the settlement was made P. F. Duncan took it at appraisal and since sold it to Thompson Derr, now deceased, of Wilkes-Barre, for \$30,000, whose estate still owns it. It is managed by William H. Richter as a stock and breeding farm. Under the present ownership it has been much improved, a large barn having been built at a

cost of \$11,000. They also have a good race course of one-half mile. The large stone mansion is occupied by Mr. Richter and sister, who are a nephew and niece of the late Thomson Derr. Mrs. Duncan, with some outside support, built a Methodist Church on the island, which was washed away by the 1865 flood. The older residents of the island are fast dwindling away. Of the older families there still remain Capt. Samuel German, A. Lukens, George, Thomas and James Carpenter, the latter being the most successful river pilot plying between the headwaters and the sea. The floods of 1865, 1868, 1874, 1878 and lesser ones, have damaged the island to a great extent.

#### A Relic of Pioneer Days.

[Tunkhannock Democrat.]

A relic of antiquity, in the shape of a pair of knee buckles, was shown in our office on Tuesday last by Chas. C. Harding, of Eaton Township, this county, a son of Jesse Harding, who is now upwards of 80 years of age and, we are sorry to learn, totally blind. The Hardings are descendants of the pioneer settlers of Wyoming Valley who braved dangers and death that they might carve out homes for themselves and future generations. But to the relic. The buckles were taken from the clothing of Benjamin Harding who, with his brother Stokely, was murdered by the Indians just opposite Falling Spring, a few miles up the river from Pittston, in 1778, a few days before the Wyoming massacre, and whose remains lie buried in a small three cornered cemetery in the heart of the village of West Pittston. These two young men went out in the morning of about July 1, 1778, to hoe corn on a small clearing at the point designated, little suspecting that treacherous savages were lurking near with murderous intent, and not returning at the accustomed time, search was instituted and their bodies found near the scene of their labors.

Benj. and Stokely Harding were uncles of Jesse Harding and the late Elisha Harding, and these relics have been kept as *souvenirs* in the family of Jesse Harding for many years, and no doubt will be preserved by his descendants for generations to come as a memento which will link them with the past and the "days which tried men's souls." The outside, or rim, of the buckles is of pure silver, and the tongues of steel, and they were used in those "early times" for fastening the stockings to the pants—short knee pants being worn in those days.

[Besides the two Hardings killed, there was a younger brother, John, who succeeded in making his escape. Judge Garrick M. Harding, of Wilkes-Barre, is a grandson of John.—Ed. Record.]





# ANNOUNCEMENT:

Hereafter the HISTORICAL RECORD will be issued quarterly instead of monthly. There will be no reduction in the quantity of contained matter for the year and the subscription price will be unchanged. Single copies will be sold at 50 cents.

A few sets of the complete volume can still be had of the publishers, price \$1 50.

The editor desires to express his thanks at the close of Volume I. to the many friends who have kindly contributed to the columns of the HISTORICAL RECORD, and asks for a continuance of similar favors

With the material on hand not yet in type and with the promise of much other, the editor hopes to make the second volume even more interesting and valuable than the first.

With this issue is sent out a complete index to Volume I.





# The Historical Record

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION

DEVOTED PRINCIPALLY TO

## The Early History of Wyoming Valley

AND CONTIGUOUS TERRITORY

WITH

## NOTES AND QUERIES

BIOGRAPHICAL, ANTIQUARIAN, GENEALOGICAL



EDITED BY F. C. JOHNSON, M. D.

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J. W. RAEDER, Bookbinder for the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society, 7 and 9 Market St., Wilkes-Barre.





## *The Wilkes-Barre Record,*

PUBLISHED EVERY WEEK-DAY MORNING,

Contains the general telegraphic news of the Associated Press, including Markets. The most complete Local Journal in Northern Pennsylvania. The most Widely Circulated and Best Advertising Medium in its field. Is delivered regularly in Alden, Ashley, Beach Haven, Belbend, Berwick, Dallas, Drifton, Edwardsville, Fairview, Forty-Fort, Freeland, Glen Lyon, Glen Summit, Hazleton, Hunlock, Huntsville, Kingston, Larksville, Laurel Run, Luzerne, Miners' Mills, Mocanaqua, Nanticoke, Penobscot, Pittston, Plains, Plymouth, Shickshinny, Sugar Notch, Wapwallopen, Wanamie, White Haven, Wyoming, etc. Subscription 50 cents per month by carrier, \$6 per year by mail.

## *The Record of the Times,*

ISSUED EVERY FRIDAY,

Reaches every post-office in Luzerne county, and circulates widely outside. Its epitome of the Local News, the Court Proceedings, the Markets and General News, is succinct and comprehensive. All important Legal Advertisements, including Sheriff's Sales, appear in its columns. It is the leading paper—as to its local reports and as an advertising medium—in its field. Subscription \$1.50 per year, or \$1 if paid in advance.

## *The Historical Record,*

PUBLISHED MONTHLY,

Devoted principally to the early history of Wyoming Valley and contiguous territory, with Notes and Queries, Biographical, Antiquarian and Genealogical. The HISTORICAL RECORD was started September, 1886, and each number consists of from 12 to 24 large pages, with wide margin. Subscription, \$1.50 per year, payable in advance. Single Copies, 15 cents.

## *The Printing Department*

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Address all communications to

C. B. Snyder,  
F. C. Johnson,  
J. C. Powell.

THE RECORD,  
WILKES-BARRE, PENN'A.





# The Historical Record

VOL. I.

AUGUST, 1887.

NO. 12.

## A CURIOUS CHAPTER OF HISTORY.

**An Event Said to Have occurred at Wyoming in 1755, But Not Found in Any of the Usual Authorities.**

In a recent issue the RECORD mentioned a rare old history of Pennsylvania, originally published in German about 1755, and translated and published in French in 1763, it being now in the possession of Hon. Steuben Jenkins, of Wyoming. Mr. Jenkins has furnished the following translation with comments of his own to Dr. Egle's *Notes and Queries*, he meanwhile asking for some other authority as to the treaty at Wyoming in 1755.

"The war which broke out in Canada, between England and France, in 1754, very soon embraced all the neighboring countries, and Pennsylvania was not spared. The French, persuaded that they would there find only a feeble resistance, because of the pacific principles of the Quakers, menaced that State with an invasion in the middle of the year 1755. Aided by some parties of savages from the vicinity of the Ohio River they completely overcame, on the 9th of July in that year, Gen. Braddock, who was killed in the action. This victory rendered them masters of all the Western country, from the Ohio to the point of the division of the river Susquehanna into two branches at Shamokin, and resulted in fixing in their party all the savages of these countries. Different detachments of these savages showed themselves at 20 leagues from Philadelphia; others went among the Delawares who were at peace, to determine them to raise the hatchet against the English; but it was the following imprudence that engaged them to declare themselves, and which failed to bring in its train the loss of all Pennsylvania:

"Some English, sent on a reconnoissance, had come to Shamokin, a village of the Delawares, on the Susquehanna. They then learned that a party of savages and French were in the neighborhood, and were in the Valley of the Juniata. Scarroyadi, one of the chiefs of the Iroquois, warned the English to withdraw, and counseled them to return by the East branch of the Susquehanna. The English did, in effect, withdraw, but in place of taking their route by the shore of the East Branch they followed

the shore of the West Branch, fell into an ambuscade of a party of French, who killed four of them. Flight saved four or five others of the party.

"Immediately after the affair, an English trader having arrived at Wyoming, another village of the Delawares, said to them that it was known that it was they who had killed his compatriots and that vengeance would be poured out on their nation. This indiscreet discourse spread among these people and made them assemble at Wyoming with the design of resisting the English if they were attacked. On the other side the English regarded this assemblage of savages as a first step which announced a disposition to commence hostilities. Consequently, without seeking more particular information, or waiting until the Delawares should attack him, they seized all those who were established in the Colony, and arrested them to the number of 232 persons of every age and sex.

"One of these prisoners having escaped, spread the news among his compatriots, and informed them of all that had taken place in Pennsylvania. They redoubled their watchfulness, and on all sides there was nothing but preparation for war. In the meantime four English deputies to treat with the Indians on the misunderstanding, arrived at Wyoming, where they at once assembled in council. When they had made report of their mission and agreed on some principles of accommodation, the savage who had escaped from prison, seeing that the Delawares were ready to acquiesce in the demands of the English, cried out:

"Give no faith to what these people say to you! They have no other design than to deceive you—to make you their prisoners, or to put you to death at the edge of the sword!" Immediately the savages, interrupting the conference, leaped to their feet and killed the four deputies.

"Since this fatal epoch, the savages ceased not to commit hostilities and the most frightful cruelties. They especially distinguished themselves in the month of October, 1755. There are no events of this kind in history that we are able to put as a parallel with the barbarities they executed.

"At Gnadenhutten, a small establishment of Moravians, in the county of Northampton, the inhabitants, peacefully assembled,





supped without disquiet. These ferocious enemies, under cover of a night as dark as the design that conducted them, advanced without noise, surprised them, taking their scalps and putting everything to the flames. When the next day appeared it offered to the sight nothing but the ashes of the corpses of the unfortunate Moravians confounded with those of their houses, their provisions, and a multitude of horned cattle."

Here follow accounts of several most brutal and blood-thirsty massacres at the Great Cove in Cumberland County, at Tulpehocken in Berks County, at Minisinks, etc., at close of which is the following statement:

"A chief of the Delawares, named Captain Jacobs (from whom Jacobs' Plains in Wyoming are named), was principally distinguished in these incursions. At Philadelphia a price was put upon his head, as well as those of several other chiefs."—Chap. xiii.

This account of a meeting in the nature of a Treaty of Peace, at Wyoming in 1755, and the taking of 232 of the Delawares prisoners; also the killing of the four English deputies, I have not found in the history of Pennsylvania. I would like to have some one give me a reference to some other authority where it may be found. I suspect the location of those transactions at Wyoming is a mistake. They may have taken place in some other locality, but I think not here. If in this locality, I would like a voucher for them.

About ten or twelve years ago I was told by the late Hon. Joseph W. Cake, that in 1755, a considerable body of Indians and French came to Shamokin to make an attack on Fort Augusta, and encamped on the hill to the northeast of that Fort. While lying there making reconnoissances preparatory to the attack, a shrewd and skillful blacksmith in the Fort conceived the idea of making a quantity of crow feet, an implement of iron having four toes about 1½ inches long, sharp at the point and barbed, so arranged that when thrown upon the ground one of these points always stood up, and was in position to penetrate the foot of man or beast that might tread upon it. These were sowed about the fort at a proper distance, in a belt of two or three rods wide.

The day of attack finally came, and the Indians and their French allies rushed upon the fort with deafening yells. When the Indians reached the belt of crow feet their moccasins and feet were penetrated with their points. Sitting down to draw these barbed points from their feet, they in many cases found the situation quite uncomfortable for their seats as it had been for their feet. The attack was suspended by reason of this strange device, and while the Indians were freeing themselves

from the embarrassment occasioned thereby volleys of musketry were poured into them from the fort. They promptly withdrew from the attack and returned to the Ohio.

Thousands of these crow feet have since been found in the localities where they were strewn on this occasion.

STEUBEN JENKINS.

Wyoming, July 22, 1887.

#### The Meteoric Shower of 1833.

The following interesting reminiscence is sent the RECORD by H. C. Wilson, formerly a Luzerne County resident, now a Knox County farmer living in Mt. Vernon, O.:

In 1833 I was living with Pierce Butler, over on the Kingston flats. About 2 o'clock in the morning I saw a bright light out of the window and got up to see what was the matter, supposing that something was on fire. I ran out doors and saw stars, as we called them, falling. It seemed as if they commenced about the centre of the heavens and kept spreading out until it seemed as if it was a mass of fire. I was badly frightened at first, but soon got over that as I saw that nothing was set on fire, when I went in and awoke Mr. Butler, who got up and came out, and like myself, was badly scared at first. He went and awoke his wife while I awoke all the rest of the family, consisting of hired men, one old colored woman and a Miss Ennie Wooley. The latter was the only one not frightened as she said that she thought that the stars went away in that manner every morning. But the old colored woman, Aunt Peggy Prime, got down on her knees and commenced praying, and such a prayer you never heard, at least I never did and she prayed for all of us. I was young and got to laughing, for which I got a scolding. But there was another lady in the house who was also praying and every few minutes would ask if anything was on fire yet.

The shower lasted until after daylight. We could see them falling through the apple trees out in the yard. It was a beautiful sight. There was an old lady in Wilkes-Barre who went through the streets crying "glory," and went to wake up Dr. George Peck, but he thought that the old lady was crazy and would not get up. In after years he told me that he had never forgiven himself, and would rather have lost fifty dollars than missed seeing the sight.

Now, a little about Aunt Peggy Prime. She was as good an old woman as ever lived—good in every way, and lived to be very old, and used to come and visit me in her old age about twice a year. She used to be a slave in the Butler family, I believe.





## Wilkes-Barre Fifty Years Ago.

[Letter to the Editor.]

In my reminiscences of the Wyoming Valley, in 1837, your journal brought me to Wilkes-Barre and placed me in a very kind and hospitable family for the night, that of Rev. John Dorrance, then the Presbyterian minister, and living on Northampton Street where Agib Ricketts now resides.

On my arrival at Wilkes-Barre I was warmly greeted by Rev. Dr. May, rector of St. Stephen's Church and afterwards professor in the Episcopal Theological Seminary at Alexandria. I became acquainted with Dr. May at Pottstown and we never expected to serve Christ in the Wyoming Valley. Dr. May preached for me one night in the old academy, on the Penitent Thief, and brought out clearly the doctrine of the divine sovereignty. Dr. Dorrance was in Philadelphia as a member of the General Assembly. Doctors May and Dorrance laid deep the foundations of vital piety and were enabled to do more than any other two ministerial laborers in the valley have done. To them highest praise is due.

Before I pass over to Kingston, of which, and the region beyond, I gave your readers a birdseye view from Prospect Rock, I must note a few things that impressed one. In comparison with our beautiful Wilkes-Barre of to-day, the Wilkes-Barre of 50 years ago was but a village. On the Public Square where the court house now lifts its noble tower, was a church edifice of wood occupied as tenants in common by two denominations—Methodist and Presbyterian—who did not live in perfect unity, and in due time, like Abraham and Lot, amicably separated.

There were only four brick houses in the town: The Slocum mansion on Public Square, now occupied by Brown's bookstore; the Perry mansion at the corner of Main and Northampton Streets; a building on Main between the Square and Northampton Street, west side, near where Wood's building is; the Hollenback mansion at corner of River and Market. Two of these landmarks have disappeared in the progress of improvement.

The name of Slocum is suggestive of much old-time local history. I did not know the elder Slocum, but his worthy descendants, most of whom have passed away, are well known and will not soon be forgotten. I should like to be pointed to the exact spot where Frances Slocum stood when she was captured by the Indians. The spot and event are both worthy of a monument.

It is somewhat strange that George M. Hollenback and Col. Charles Dorrance should have been such able successful businessmen, for they were brought up as gentlemen's sons and served no special apprenticeship in business training.

George Hollenback was a great trainer of young men for business and they in turn were good trainers of others. Among these were Ziba Bennett, Nathaniel Rafter, C. F. Reets, R. J. Flick and a Mr. Phillips, who became a partner of Mr. Flick. All are living except Mr. Bennett and Mr. Phillips.

The amusements of the day were more simple than now. Much of the merry making which is now limited chiefly to children was enjoyed by the young people generally. I officiated at a wedding attended by the first class of young people and instead of dancing they entertained themselves with rustic pastimes that would find little favor now.

Prices of labor and prices of produce were very low. Men earned less than a dollar a day. Domestic sometimes worked for fifty cents a week, paid in store pay. Wheat was hauled to Easton by wagon or sled and sold there for fifty cents a bushel.

Judge Scott had laid down the sceptre and Judge Conyngnam took it up. Judge Geo. W. Woodward was entering the arena and was making himself a name as a delegate to the convention at Harrisburg for amending the Constitution.

Dr. Thomas W. Miner had the practice in the same families that Dr. Mayer now has.

Few splendid equipages were seen in the streets.

That coal was fuel had been proved, but lands and lots were bought and sold without much reference to the treasures beneath the surface. Here and there was a little waking up as to the real value of the coal, a value which in our day is a thousand dollars or more an acre.

I passed over to Kingston to occupy my field of labor and was kindly received. But my first Sabbath was a gloomy one. I preached in the old academy which stood where is now the residence of Mrs. Mary Reynolds. There were present 15 or 20 men and perhaps 40 women and children, who seated themselves among the desks and writing books. The effect was somewhat discouraging, but things brightened up and soon after I preached a sermon from the text "My sheep hear my voice and I know them and they follow me and I give them eternal life." This was the beginning of better days and from that time on the work continued to prosper. A church building was erected two or three years after my coming. The reason it had not been accomplished before was that this preaching place had no pastor, but was only an outpost, visited at intervals by ministers from Wilkes-Barre. The church was built exactly like the wooden church occupied by the Presbyterians in Wilkes-Barre. The cost was nineteen hundred dol-





lars and the builder was Mr. Marcy. Of course the contractor lost money but I believe the deficiency was made up by the congregation.

Not long after there was a precious revival and the congregation was much strengthened by the access of the Shoemaker family who were nominally Methodists before.

I preached three fourths of my time at Kingston and one-fourth of my time at Nanticoke. My salary at Kingston was \$325 a year, and Nanticoke, as a missionary station, gave such support as it could. During the week I preached at Plymouth, Pittston, Slocum Hollow, (now Scranton), Northmoreland, Dallas, Trucksville and Lehman.

I served the Kingston church as pastor for seven or eight years and it was as prosperous then as it is now. I subsequently gathered a congregation in Plymouth and an edifice was erected there. It was dedicated by Dr. Cuyler. I also gathered a congregation in Larksville, where under my ministrations a house of worship was built.

E. HAZARD SNOWDEN.

#### Was Arnold Interested in Wyoming?

Not long ago our recent townsman, Mr. Harry Colt Butler, now of the Durango (Col.) *Idea*, addressed the following interesting letter to the *Record*:

While in conversation with Mr. McCloud, the Register of the Durango Land Office, I learned that he was a native of Norwich, Conn. He was quite familiar with the early history of the Wyoming Valley, especially that portion of the history relating to the troubles between the Pennsylvania and Connecticut claimants to the land. He also informed me that he had in his possession a deed signed by Benedict Arnold conveying a portion of land in the valley to his sister, but that the document had passed out of his possession. He also spoke of a certain land company formed by early Connecticut capitalists in which Arnold was interested. As I had never heard of Arnold's connection with the Wyoming Valley before and had seen nothing published in regard to the matter, I concluded that perhaps I had stumbled on an interesting scrap of history. Mr. McCloud gave me the address of the Connecticut State Librarian and stated that the gentlemen could be better able than anyone else to give the desired information. He is thoroughly posted in the early history of Connecticut and passionately fond of antiquarian research. Perhaps the item is of no historical value but I send it for what it

is worth and by writing to the Librarian you can probably get at the facts.

#### REPLY TO INQUIRY.

CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY, Hartford, July 22, 1887.—EDITOR *RECORD*: I can give you very little information in regard to the subject of your inquiry. There were, as you well know, two companies formed in Connecticut for selling lands claimed under the Connecticut charter of 1662, lying west of New York. These were the Susquehanna Co. and the Delaware Co. The records of the former are now in the library of the Connecticut Historical Society in this city. They are in several volumes, and having been carefully put away and forgotten by the aged secretary of the society, now dead, were for some years supposed to have been lost. Of the Delaware Co. not much is known. Mr. McCloud while living here had one volume of its records, a register of deeds, which came into his hands when a mere lad in Norwich. I have seen this book but am ignorant as to where it may be at present. Mr. McCloud very probably had other papers of the Delaware Co. which he did not preserve and which have long ago gone to the paper mill.

As the members of both companies were in great part from eastern Connecticut, i. e., the counties of Windham and New London, and as many held shares or rights for speculative purposes and without intention of themselves settling in Wyoming, it is likely enough that Arnold may have been interested in one of them; but I do not now remember whether his name appeared in McCloud's book or not.

CHARLES J. HOADLY.

#### The History of Huntington Valley.

Mrs. M. L. T. Hartman is now arranging for the publication in book form, with numerous additions, the Huntington Valley historical articles published in the *Slickshinny Echo* last year. The volume will exceed four hundred pages, and in addition to what has already been published, will contain a complete roster of the soldiers who enlisted from the townships embraced in the history. The book will be substantially bound and sold at the low price of \$2.50. Mrs. Hartman did some canvassing at Patterson Grove and secured over 90 names.

#### Indian Relics Found.

The South Bethlehem *Star* has been presented with a box containing Indian relics found in Hanover Township, Lehigh Co. The specimens consist of a beautiful spear head over ten inches in length, an Indian stone tomahawk and 30 perfectly shaped arrow heads of different make.





## COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

Complete List of from 1794, Together with the Several Clerks of the Board—A Hitherto Unpublished List.

We are indebted to the present board of County Commissioners for the following list, taken from the records, the same having hitherto never been published:

1794—Jesse Fell, Alexander Jameson.  
1795-6—John Phillips, John Jenkins, Thomas Wright.

1800-1—Lawrence Myers, E. Blackman, Thomas Wright.

1803—E. Blackman, Arnold Colt, Oliver Pettebone.

1804—Arnold Colt, Ezekiel Hyde, Oliver Pettebone.

1805—Oliver Pettebone, Benjamin Dorrance, E. Hyde, Eleazer Blackman.

1806—E. Blackman, B. Dorrance, Elisha Harding.

1807—B. Dorrance, E. Harding, H. Tiffany.

1808—E. Harding, H. Tiffany, James Wheeler.

1809—H. Tiffany, J. Wheeler, Benj. Perry. Peleg Tracy was clerk of the board from 1804 to 1809.

1810—Benj. Perry, Thos. Welles, Noah Wadhams, Samuel Bowman.

1811—B. Perry, N. Wadhams, Thomas Park.

1812—B. Perry, N. Wadhams, Abiel Fellows.

1813—Cornelius Cortright, Naphthali Hurlbut, Abiel Fellows.

1814—N. Hurlbut, C. Cortright, Benjamin Carey.

1815—C. Cortright, Benj. Carey, James Reeder.

1816—Benj. Carey, James Reeder, Lord Butler.

Jesse Fell was clerk of the board from 1810 to 1816.

1817—Lord Butler, James Reeder, Isaac Hartzell.

1818—Lord Butler, I. Hartzell, E. Shoemaker.

Arnold Colt was clerk of the board in 1817 and 1818.

1819—E. Shoemaker, I. Hartzell, Cyrus Avery.

1820—E. Shoemaker, C. Avery, Joel Rogers.

1821—C. Avery, Joel Rogers, Samuel Yost.

1822—Joel Rogers, Samuel Yost, Hezekiah Parsons.

1823—Samuel Yost, H. Parsons, Steuben Butler.

1824—H. Parsons, Steuben Butler, Elisha S. Potter.

1825—S. Butler, E. S. Potter, Deodat Smith.

1826—E. S. Potter, D. Smith, Arnold Colt.

1827—D. Smith, A. Colt, John Bittenbender.

1828—A. Colt, John Bittender, Isaac Harding.

1829—J. Bittenbender, I. Harding, Wm. Swetland.

1830—I. Harding, Wm. Swetland, Cornelius Cortright.

Jesse Fell was clerk of the board from 1819 to 1830.

1831—Wm. Swetland, C. Cortright, Jacob Rambach.

1832—C. Cortright, J. Rambach, Luman Ferry.

1833—J. Rambach, Luman Ferry, Joseph Tuttle.

E. Carey was clerk of the board from 1831 to 1833.

1834—L. Ferry, Joseph Tuttle, Sebastian Sybert.

1835—Joseph Tuttle, S. Sybert, Samuel Saylor.

Thomas Myers was clerk of the board in 1834 and 1835.

1836—S. Sybert, S. Saylor, John Fassett.

1837—S. Saylor, John Fassett, Wm. Koons.

1838—John Fassett, Wm. Koons, Gorton Wall.

1839—Wm. Koons, Gorton Wall, Philip Yost.

1840—Gorton Wall, Philip Yost, Nathaniel Cottrill.

Chester Tuttle was clerk of the board from 1836 to 1840.

1841—Philip Yost, N. Cottrill, Thos. Irwin.

Chas. W. Potter was clerk of the board in 1841.

1842—N. Cottrill, Thos. Irwin, J. Bencoter.

1843—J. Bencoter, Jno. Rosencranse, Jr., Thos. Irwin.

1844—J. Bencoter, J. Rosencranse, Jr., E. Chamberlin.

Edward Dolph was clerk of the board from 1842 to 1844.

1845—J. Rosencranse, Jr., E. Chamberlin, Charles Berry.

1846—E. Chamberlin, C. Berry, Philip Meixell.

1847—C. Berry, P. Meixell, Ira Branson.

1848—P. Meixell, I. Branson, Robert Eaton.

1849—I. Branson, R. Eaton, Jacob Be-secker.

1850—Robert Eaton, Rowland Richards, Isaiah Stiles.

Jared R. Baldwin was clerk of the board from 1845 to 1850.

1851—L. H. Litts, Isaiah Stiles, R. Hutchins.





1852—Isaiah Stiles, R. Hutchins, Peter Winter.

1853—R. Hutchins, Peter Winter, Abraham Smith.

Chester Tuttle was clerk of the board from 1851 to 1853.

1854—Peter Winter, A. Smith, Daniel Vail.

1855—A. Smith, D. Vail, Silas Dodson.

1856—D. Vail, S. Dodson, W. A. Tubbs.

1857—S. Dodson, W. A. Tubbs, Benj. F. Pfouts.

1858—W. A. Tubbs, B. F. Pfouts, Jno. C. Dunning.

1859—B. F. Pfouts, J. C. Dunning, John Blanchard.

1860—J. C. Dunning, J. Blanchard, Daniel Rambach.

1861—John Blanchard, D. Rambach, Samuel Vaughn.

1862—D. Rambach, S. Vaughn, Nathan Kocher.

1863—S. Vaughn, N. Kocher, Stephen Devenport.

Chas. T. Barnum was clerk of the board from 1855 to 1863.

1864—N. Kocher, Stephen Devenport, Uriah A. Gritman.

1865—S. Devenport, U. A. Gritman, William Wolf.

1866—U. A. Gritman, W. Wolf, William Franck.

1867—W. Wolf, W. Franck, W. W. Smith.

1868—W. Franck, W. W. Smith, Michael Raber.

1869—W. W. Smith, M. Raber, B. F. Louder.

Steuben Jenkins was clerk of the board from 1864 to 1869.

1870—M. Raber, B. F. Louder, G. W. Bailey.

Steuben Jenkins and Geo. M. Nagle were clerk of the board in 1870.

1871—B. F. Louder, G. W. Bailey, Chas. F. Hill.

1872—G. W. Bailey, C. F. Hill, A. J. Williams.

1873—A. J. Williams, C. F. Hill, R. Gersbacher.

George M. Nagle was clerk of the board from 1871 to 1873.

1874 and 1875—A. J. Williams, R. Gersbacher, N. Sibert.

P. F. Lynch was clerk of the board in 1874 and 1875.

1876, 1877, and 1878—N. N. Dean, Samuel Line and Peter Jennings.

H. C. Jones was clerk of the board in 1876, 1879, 1880, and 1881—L. C. Darte,

Stephen Turnbach, James D. Harris.

S. A. Whitebread was clerk of the board from 1877 to 1881.

1882, 1883 and 1884—Thos. W. Haines, Casper Oberdorfer, Henry Vanscoy.

S. A. Whitebread and H. W. Search were

clerks of the board in 1882. H. W. Search was clerk of the board in 1883 and 1884.

1885, 1886, and 1887—Thos. W. Haines, Thos. English, Cyrus Straw.

Robt. P. Robinson is the present clerk and has filled the position since 1885.

#### The 53d's Reunion.

The survivors of the 53d Pennsylvania Volunteers, residing in this vicinity, held their annual reunion on the Dallas fair ground Sept. 10. There were present a very large number of veterans. One of the objects of the meeting was to raise \$200 to towards erecting a monument on the field of Gettysburg. There was a meeting of survivors of the regiment on the historic field last July, when it was decided to raise \$200 for this purpose in addition to the \$1,500 which the State gives. The sum of \$200 was required from the veterans of this county and on Saturday the whole of the amount was pledged.

During the day a substantial meal was served by the ladies of Dallas, including not only the usual veteran fare, pork and beans, but many additional delicacies. After dinner a meeting was held at which a very large number of the residents of Dallas and vicinity, in addition to the veterans, were present. A number of speeches were made. Among those who addressed the gathering being Gen. E. S. Osborne, Hon. H. B. Payne, of Kingston; Burgess Moore, of Miner's Mills and Capt. Alfred Darte. The day in all was an interesting and enjoyable one to all who participated.

The following survivors of Co. F, 53d Regiment P. V., were present:

Capt. Jacob Rice, Capt. Isaac Howell, Lieut. Martin W. Anthony, Lieut. Lester Race, George W. Thompson, Alexander Preston, Wm. Richards, Elihue Dimon, Charles Christpell, E. L. Whitney, Wm. H. Jackson, Peter Culp, E. L. Hoover, S. D. Hunt, John Wilson, Jacob Delay, Able I. Perigo, Amos Pool, Wm. Hockenberry, Perry Frantz, O. L. Roushey, Jabis Jackson, John Perry, James Crulip, Able Perrigo, James Sorber, Henry Case, Nelson Case, Daniel McCloud.

Following is a list of comrades from other organizations: Gen. E. S. Osborne, Capt. Alfred Darte, P. Perrigo, 177th P. V.; John F. Minor, 49th P. V.; O. S. Garnett, 7th Pa. Cav.; J. H. Shook, 1st Pa. L. Art.; R. B. Wilson, 18th Cav.; Tom P. Berringer, 143d P. V.; S. F. Rogers, 203d P. V.; John F. Gouldsmith, 198th P. V.; Chester Ellsworth, 97th P. V.; Philip Tamaront, 203d P. V.; J. R. Culp, 1st Pa. L. Art.; Wm. Sits, 2nd Pa. L. Art.; Samuel Storry, 97th P. V.; Mat Cobert, 143d P. V.; Charles Konkle, 143d P. V.; S. B. Snell, 143d P. V.; Charles Dimon, 177th P. V.; James Mc-





Guire, 203d P. V.; Ambrose Hilbert, 143d P. V.; Charles Hoover, 143d P. V.; Michael Rother, 143d P. V.; Joseph Hoover, 143d P. V.; Capt. D. J. Morton, 143d P. V.; Laren Dexter, 188th P. V.; O. B. Write, 12th P. V.; Charles H. Hall, 9th Pa. Cav.; Elijah Richards, 9th Pa. Cav.; Philip Lumarowe, 203d Pa. Cav.; S. Z. Freeman, 12th Pa. Cav.; Samuel Vanarsdale, 58th Illinois; Henry Randall, 1st Pa. L. Art.; John Kunkle, 2d Pa. L. Art.; Joseph Whispell, 15th N. Y.; J. W. Taylor, 16th N. Y. Heavy Art.; Simon Belas, 124th N. Y.; and others.

#### A Relic of Pioneer Life Recovered.

[Honesdale Independent.]

Those who are familiar with the early history of Damascus, Wayne Co., will recall the fact that in November, 1762, the block-house at Coshetunk, built on what is now the William Ross farm, on the Delaware, was attacked by the Indians. The assailants were finally driven off, and the settlers soon afterward abandoned the block-house. A tradition has survived that they threw into a well, within the enclosure, a quantity of tools and other things which they were unable to carry away; and the well was afterward filled up. Recently, Nathan and Albert Mitchell, natives of Damascus, now residing at Great Bend, in preparing for the celebration of the Susquehanna County centennial, decided to explore the old well in search of relics illustrating the settlement of Wayne County. Last Thursday, Albert Mitchell, assisted by Charles Boyd, a son of Hon. T. Y. Boyd, having removed the dirt from the well, to a depth of eighteen feet found an ax and a chisel; the former well preserved, but the latter nearly eaten up by rust. The ax, with the crumbling remains of a helve, about thirty inches long, weighs five pounds and two ounces.

#### Remarkable Swarm of Flies.

Judge E. L. Dana and Charles Dana, of Wilkes-Barre, and F. H. Piatt, of Tankhannock, went up to Mehoopany on Saturday, Aug. 27 and floated down to town. They caught about thirty fine bass.—*Tankhannock New Age.*

Our contemporary has missed an important feature of the trip. During the last five miles of their ride they were enveloped in an immense swarm of white flies, which, when they saw at a distance, they thought was a snow squall. The insects shut out the view entirely and the rowers could make their way with difficulty. The flies fell into the stream by thousands and were eagerly seized by the bass in all directions. Judge Dana pronounces it the most wonderful swarm of insects he ever saw, and they were not at all familiar to him.

#### REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES.

Sketches of the Men Nominated on the Luzerne County Ticket on Sept. 13, at Wilkes-Barre.

##### COUNTY TREASURER.

Charles Buell Metzger was born Nov. 29, 1839, at Lewisburg, Union Co., Pa. Two years later his parents moved to Williamsport and removed to Wilkes-Barre in March, 1848. On his father's side, he is descendent from Holland Dutch stock, who settled at Middletown, Pa., in the year 1763, and his mother was a lineal descendant of John Alden. Charles was educated in the common schools of this city and Wyoming Seminary at Kingston. He learned the trade of plasterer with his father. When the first call for 75,000 men was issued by President Lincoln, he was second sergeant in the Wyoming Artillerists, commanded by the late Col. A. H. Emley, who had offered its services to the governor of the State. The company was mustered into the service of the United States April 23, 1861. He was mustered out in August and returned home, and being an only son, and his mother objecting to his re-enlistment, he remained at work until the call for the militia in '62. He was orderly sergeant of Capt. (now Judge) Woodward's Co. I, 3d Penn. After a campaign of 11 days they were discharged. Charles continued his trade until June, 1863, when there was another call for the State militia, and he enlisted again with Capt. Woodward, and was elected first lieutenant of Co. A, 41st Penn. Dr. Mayer was its colonel. After a six weeks' campaign the company was again mustered out. In February, 1864, having received his mother's consent, he enlisted, with thirteen other Wilkes-Barre boys, in the 4th New York Heavy Artillery, who were stationed at that time at Fort Ethan Allen, in Virginia, where they remained until some time in March, when they were ordered to the front, their Colonel, John C. Tidball, being made chief of artillery of the 2d Army Corps. His regiment was in all the engagements from the Wilderness down to the capture of Gen. Lee. He, with his entire company (38 men and two commissioned officers) were captured at Ream's Station, Va., Aug. 25, 1864, and was confined in Libby and Belle Island prisons, but had the good luck to be paroled after a confinement of some six weeks, and was mustered out with his regiment Sept. 27.

He was a member of the Wilkes Barre Fire Department from 1859 to 1882, filling several stations with the highest satisfaction, resigning as chief engineer Jan. 1, 1882.

He was mustered into Ely Post, 97, Department of Pennsylvania, in 1881, and has filled the position of quartermaster for three





years and commander of the post for one year.

He represented his post for five years at the Department Encampment and was a delegate at the National Encampment at San Francisco last year. Since the fall of 1883 he has been engaged as manufacturer of confectionery.

#### REGISTER OF WILLS.

The Republican standard bearer for Register is Harry C. Beck, of Lehman. Mr. Beck was born in Lebanon County, Pa., in 1839, and came to Luzerne County in 1865. He served 2 years and 3 months during the late war in the 152d Reg., P. V., as a member of Battery H, Light Artillery. He made a most creditable war record, his last engagement being at Gettysburg. He is the proprietor of the Lehman House, at Lehman, and has been engaged in similar business in Wilkes-Barre, Scranton and Luzerne Borough. The veterans of the late war will largely swell the enormous vote that is sure to be polled for Harry Beck.

#### COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

Capt. Cyrus Straw was born in Hazleton in 1833. He was a son of Andrew Straw, a native of Lebanon County, who moved to Hazleton in 1835. Capt. Straw passed his younger years in the Butler Valley, whither his father had moved. He was educated at the common schools in Butler Township, and in 1855 entered the Wyoming Seminary and studied there for nearly two years. He then taught school in Butler, Hazle and Foster Townships for one term in each. In 1861 he entered the army as a lieutenant in Co. K, 81st Pa. Vols. He served with bravery and distinction until the battle of Antietam Feb. 17, 1862, in which struggle he received a gunshot wound in the hip, and in 1863 was mustered out of the service on account of disability, with the rank of captain. He returned to his home in the Butler Valley, and for 16 months was unable to stir around except with crutches. He soon after entered into business, carrying on an extensive trade in flour, feed, lumber, etc., owning a grist and saw mill. In 1872 his property was totally destroyed by fire, but he succeeded in again establishing a flourishing business in the lumber line, in which he was still engaged at the time of his election to the office of County Commissioner in 1884, since which time he has resided in this city. He was married in 1867 to Sarah H. Leach, of Scranton, daughter of Charles Leach, of Susquehanna.

Harry Evans, of Pittston, is one of the most popular young Welshmen of upper Luzerne. He was born in Aberdare, Wales, and will be 32 years old in January next. He came to America

with his parents when only a few months old, the ocean voyage being noteworthy by reason of the length—two months. Mr. Evans has passed his life in Wyoming Valley. At 10 years of age he was picking slate in a coal breaker and acquiring the rudiments of an education by attending night school after his day's toil was ended. Later he attended the common schools of Pittston, the grammar school and the high school, finishing with a commercial course at Wyoming Seminary from which he graduated in 1874.

He subsequently held several positions as clerk, book-keeper, ticket agent, etc. During 1883-4-5 he was deputy tax receiver of Pittston Borough and was the first man to settle his duplicates in their entirety and without trouble. Last spring he ran for borough auditor and was the only Republican candidate who successfully ran the Democratic gauntlet, he defeating so popular a politician as Court Clerk James L. Morris by a majority of 298. He has been deputy warden of the county prison since last April.

#### AUDITORS.

George W. Rimer, of Sweet Valley, was born in Wilkes-Barre in 1845, and at the age of 12 went to Fairmount Springs, where his father, J. H. Rimer, who had been an engineer in Wilkes-Barre, engaged in farming. After spending four of his boyhood years upon his father's farm, young Rimer was thrilled with the feeling of patriotism that swept over the country, and though only 16 years old rallied to the support of his country's flag, as did his father. He first enlisted in Co. A, 52d Reg., P. V., and afterwards in Co. F, 149th P. V., of which company Edwin S. Osborne, since major general, was captain. Mr. Rimer served more than three years, participating in such important engagements as Pollock's Mills, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, the Wilderness, Spottsylvania, Cold Harbor, Petersburg and Hatch's Run. His record in camp and on the field was that of a brave and intrepid soldier, though he passed through the war without a wound. After the war he went into the lumber business in the western part of the State, but engaged in farming at Fairmount Springs in 1882. In 1884 he was attending a Grand Army encampment at Bellefonte, when he sustained injuries to the spine by the falling of an elevated seat, which have since entirely incapacitated him, he having no use of the lower part of his body, and being unable to get from point to point except by the aid of crutches.

Butler Friedland Dilley was born in this city about twenty-five years ago. His father is Capt. Butler Dilley, well known throughout the county. He is a grandson of the late Oliver Pettebone, and related to the





Pettebones located along the west side of the Susquehanna from Kingston to Pittston, portions of the properties having been occupied since before the massacre at Wyoming. The Dilleys are a large family and all Republicans. The nominee lived in Washington city for a number of years, but the greater portion of his life has been passed on the Oliver Pettebone homestead, near Luzerne. At present he lives in Kingston Borough. Since attaining his majority he has been an active Republican, always interesting himself in the contests and being on the side with the best men. He served two years in the county commissioners' office as assistant clerk, but at present is engaged in the publication of the *Wyoming Valley Times*, of which paper he is editor and business manager. He taught in the public schools for several terms.

#### WYOMING COAL MEASURES.

Interesting Description of the Sub-Strata as Viewed by the Geologist—A Rocky Basin a Quarter of a Mile Deep.

Geographically, the Wyoming Valley extends from Shickshinny to Pittston; topographically, it extends from Shickshinny to Scranton; geologically, it extends from Shickshinny to Carbondale, a distance of 50 miles. Its general appearance as viewed, for instance, from Prospect Rock is that of a spacious vale fading on both hands into the haze of distance, holding, dimly seen in its northeastern extremity, the city of Scranton, and on the opposite horizon Shickshinny. The one anomaly of the landscape, when viewed by a geologist, is the presence of the Susquehanna River as an element of the scenery. The course of the stream is entirely independent of the stratigraphical structure of the region. It enters the valley at Pittston only after cutting transversely through the mountains north of that place. It then curves for itself a desultory course over the coal measures as far as Nanticoke, where, passing through a notch in the conglomerate, it enters the region of red shale, and continues in that course until at Shickshinny it again breaks at right angles across the trend of the mountain range. The height of the river above the level of the sea is about 540 feet. The mountains encircling the valley are from 1,200 to 2,000 feet above sea level.

The Northern Coal Field, consisting of one long concave basin, may be compared to a boat whose stem rests a little north of Carbondale, and stern somewhat south of Shickshinny, and whose gunwales are the Wilkes-Barre and Kingston mountains. The length of this canoe would be more than 50 miles; the width at Carbondale, 1 mile; at Scranton, 4 miles and at Kingston,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  miles.

Taking the Mammoth Bed to be the floor of the boat, its depth would be 800 feet below sea level. The same bed where it outcrops at slope No. 2, of the Kingston Coal Co., and at the Holdenback Slope, below Prospect Rock, however, rises to the height of 755 feet above sea-level, so that the real depth of the boat is 1,575 feet.

The coal measures themselves are encased in an all-enveloping bed of Pottsville conglomerate, which forms a high and protecting rim surrounding the valley. Around every coal basin, also, it is always observed that there is a second or a parallel enfolding ridge of mountains formed of Pocono sandstone, while between these two ridges there is a thick bed of Match Chunk Red Shale which is generally eroded into a narrow valley.

All the strata of Wyoming Valley which come to the surface in its precincts belong, therefore to the Paleozoic Era and to the Devonian and Carboniferous Periods. The townships north of Kingston Mountain show the Catskill formation, with here and there a glimpse of the Chemung. These strata are of variable thicknesses, and are easily recognizable from their lithological characteristics. At Campbell's Ledge and in other gaps both in the northern and southern ridges, these formations are made accessible to examination. If we were to traverse a straight line from Harvey's Lake to Bear Creek, the country for some miles would be first of Catskill sandstone. Perhaps in the lowlands along Toby's Creek we would cross the Chemung. Ascending the northern side of Kingston Mountain, we would find ourselves when at the summit to be on Pocono sandstone. If we were unacquainted with the country, we would next expect to find a narrow valley in the Red Shale. But the law in this case fails to work, and we find instead, a narrow plateau of the same material. Crossing this, we come to the Pottsville Conglomerate, and behold 1,000 feet beneath us, the wonderful prospect of Wyoming. Departing from the conglomerate, we next cross the outcrops of the coal measures, with their 14 veins of coal, and traverse the drift formations of the Kingston Flats. Ascending Wilkes-Barre Mountain we would again pass over the coal outcrops, arrive at the conglomerate summit, cross a narrow valley in the shale, and come to the great Pocono plateau and thus to Bear Creek.

The Wyoming Basin, owing to its comparative remoteness from the centre of maximum disturbance, is not so broken up by flexures as are the basins of Carbon and Schuylkill Counties. Its general character is that of one great synclinal, the coal seams outcropping on each side before they have





an opportunity to reach their proper anticlinals. The floor of this Carboniferous trough is by no means symmetrical. It is crumpled into many rolls that run in long diagonals across the basin in nearly parallel lines, forming, as it were, many smaller, or local basins. The number of small anticlinals existing in the sub-strata is consequently great, and many of them are detected only with much difficulty. These undulations, or saddles, as they approach Carbonate, diverge more and more from the general direction of the valley, but become proportionately smaller in the steepness of their anticlinals with each advancing wave. The anticlinals which originate in the southern mountain, become sharper as they approach the center of the valley, and die out along the line of the Susquehanna. Those anticlinals originating in the northern ridge are supposed to have the same characteristics, but owing to the large accumulations of drift on the surface, the topographical evidences are very meagre. The Geological Survey has already described 40 of these troughs, and we are informed that each of these is marked again by a secondary series of anticlinals which, though but slightly observable in a map, are of vast importance in a mine.

The thickness of the coal measures varies greatly. The deepest part of the basin is in the vicinity of the Dundee Shaft, near Nanticoke, where 1,700 feet of coal strata are developed. The names of the principal seams as they are met in descending No. 4 shaft of the Kingston Coal Co., with their average thicknesses, is as follows:

Orchard vein.....	4½ feet
Lance vein.....	6½ feet
Hillman vein.....	10 feet
Five Foot vein.....	5 feet
Four Foot vein.....	4 feet
Six Foot vein.....	6 feet
Eleven Foot vein.....	11 feet
Cooper vein.....	7½ feet
Bennet vein.....	12 feet
Ross vein.....	10 feet
Red Ash vein.....	9 feet

The total thickness of coal is therefore about 90 feet. These coal measures are composed of softer material than are the strata of the southern basins, but it is believed that they are nevertheless identical.

Prof. White says: "Although Wilkes-Barre and Hazleton are distant from each other twenty miles, the same coal beds can be recognized at the two places, showing that they once spanned the wide rock-arch of the Wapwallopen valley, that all the coal fields were once united; that the slow erosion of ages has spared to the people of Pennsylvania but a small fraction of the mineral which once covered the entire area of the State."

The magnificent force of these eroding agencies is well proven by the presence of the fine striae upon Penobscot Knob which is 2,220 feet high and is only nine miles north of the edge of the terminal moraine. Near the same summit, on Catskill sandstone, is a large white boulder of Pottsville Conglomerate, measuring 9x6x4½ feet, that well attests the thickness of the glacier at that point. But it is impossible to determine from the data so far accumulated the real action and direct result of the glacial age.

The phenomena of the glacial age are not harder to comprehend, however, than are the peculiarities of the sedimentary deposits in the Paleozoic Era.

The Pottsville Conglomerate formation, as is understood, is the rocky cradle which supports the coal measure. Why is it that at Pamaqua the thickness of this millstone grit is 1,191 feet, while at Wilkes-Barre it is but 96 feet? Numerous theories are advanced, but it is hard to determine which is the correct one. The same unevenness of this formation is noticed everywhere in the anthracite region. The reason may be that there is a non-conformability in the surface of the underlying shale, or that there is a non-conformability between individual strata of the conglomerate measures, or it is possible that the phenomenon is the result of local currents existing at the time of deposition. Prof. Lesley says: "The variable thickness of the conglomerate must be discussed on one of two hypotheses; either we must surmise extraordinary and unaccountable variations in the quality of sand and gravel deposited on neighboring parts of red shale sea bottom; or, we must apply the mechanical law, that the folding of a plastic mass shifts all parts of the mass to allow of its accommodation in a smaller space."—W. George Powell in *Seranton Argus*.

#### Our Annual Directory.

The size of our city, as well as its growth, is well shown by an examination of the new directory, just distributed by J. E. Williams. It contains 12,749 names, an excess of 2,027 over the directory of a year ago. There are 4,151 names which were not in last year's issue and of the names a year ago 2,124 have been dropped. Of the 12,749 names contained in this issue only about half are to be found in the edition of last year without some alteration. Mr. Williams finds that the multiplying of the names in his directories by 2¼ gives the population. This gives Wilkes-Barre a population of 35,060, and an increase during the year of 5,574, certainly a very healthy showing.





## SAMUEL MEREDITH.

Dr. Hollister Writes an Interesting Chapter Concerning This Revolutionary Officer Who Located in the Wilderness of Northern Pennsylvania.

[Letter to the Editor.]

A century, or even half a century, ago there was no name more familiar in Northern Pennsylvania than that of Meredith. When the villages of Montrose, Dundaff, Belmont and Milford emerged from the wilderness this name, above all others, commanded attention and respect. Such erroneous impressions, however, in reference to Samuel have crept into print that a brief, authentic account of this gentleman from the diary of T. Meredith Maxwell, M. D., of 353 East 73d Street, New York, with that of his family, is highly desirable.

He was born in England in 1741. According to exact data he was major in Gen. Cadwallader's Philadelphia battalion, which aided Gen. Washington in 1776-77 at Trenton and Princeton. After the march to Morristown in 1777, Meredith was commissioned a brigadier general. A letter of his written from Morristown Jan. 9, 1777, one week after the battle of Princeton, is still extant. In it he speaks of the hardships endured by Washington and his great "stroke" of generalship in "our march from Trenton to Prince Town." He was a member of the Continental Congress and the Colonial Legislature of Pennsylvania. He held for a short time the office of Surveyor of the Port of Philadelphia. In 1789 Washington appointed him the first treasurer of the United States. He held this important office for 12 years and when he resigned it Thomas Jefferson wrote him a letter of regret and recommendation. His father, Reese Meredith, was an Englishman by birth. His silver service was marked with a crest of the Merediths, an old Welsh family of ancient lineage. It was a demi-lion rampant, collared and chained. The family in Ireland, called Meredyth, have the same crest at the present time. The name was originally Meredydd. Meredith was president of the Welsh Society for the Promotion of Emigration to America. Samuel was a gentleman of means and culture. Geo. Clymer, his brother-in-law, was associated with him in business in Philadelphia. In the early part of the century they purchased many thousand acres of wild land in Northern Pennsylvania for a song, for speculative purpose. Samuel settled in Belmont, Wayne Co., which was laid out as the manor tract of Meredyths. He established an ashery for making pearlsh, developed a village in the wilderness beyond the confines of civ-

ilization, and had he lived would have built a large place, and there would have been no Mt. Pleasant town as now.

The rage for land speculation at this time ruined the genial Robert Morris and even threatened Samuel Meredith, the Drinkers and other distinguished Pennsylvanians who had invested in the wild lands of upper Pennsylvania. Samuel located here in 1812 and he died in 1817, before the first coal era began in the Lackawanna Valley under the impulse of Wurtises.

Trees six inches in diameter grew over his neglected grave until 1877, when the writer, through the columns of the *Scranton Republican*, called public attention to it and then Dr. Rodney Harms, of Mt. Pleasant, took a party to the grave and put it in proper condition. This Belmont property, if it had been managed properly after the death of Samuel, would have yielded immense heritage to his descendants. Thomas, the only son of Samuel, was a man of superior endowments. After the death of his father and after the Wurtises had begun mining coal in the forest where Carbondale now stands, Thomas moved over the Moosic Mountain, hewed out the wood-side a mile below it, erected a fine mansion and after a while he engaged in the mining of coal. A rupture of friendly relations between the Wurtises and Meredith occurring early, was fatal to the prosperity of the latter gentleman. The Wurtises controlled the railroad and there was no other outlet for coal. Meredith procured a charter for a railroad, but it was never matured in his day. While Thomas lived no coal could be found down the Lackawanna a foot below Meredith's fence owing to animosities thus engendered. His home on the Lackawanna was the most hospitable and cultured one found in the valley half a century ago and it was known and noted by every passer for its cheerful outlook.

His son Samuel, born here, inherited all the kind and generous traits, but none of the business characteristics and economy of his father. He lived a fast, easy life. He invested his money in a hotel at Jessup and in the now abandoned Jessup RR., and it vanished like the morning dew. He died penniless in Philadelphia, Belmont, the once famous place for Philadelphians, is now one of Goldsmith's deserted villages with but a single dwelling standing upon its former site. Mt. Pleasant is about a mile away.

H. HOLLISTER.

## The Meredith Gravestone.

The following letter has been received from William Wright, of Pleasant Mount, Wayne Co., and the same properly supple-





ments the Meredith article by Dr. Hollister:  
 EDITOR RECORD: Samuel Meredith's grave  
 is marked by a marble slab, with the follow-  
 ing inscription:

"Samuel Meredith  
 Died  
 February the tenth  
 1817

In the 70th year of his age."

The grave of his wife is also marked by a  
 marble slab, with the following:

"Here lie the Remains of  
 Margaret Meredith  
 Widow of Samuel Meredith  
 Born Dec. 13th, 1752  
 Died Sept. 23d, 1820.

This stone is inscribed as a tribute by her  
 children to the memory of an affectionate and  
 respected parent."

On the 4th of July, 1877, a large number  
 of the citizens of this village met on the  
 ground and cleaned up the little cemetery  
 and straightened up the stones, etc.; and  
 proceedings were then inaugurated for the  
 purpose of erecting a monument more  
 worthy of the man and the position he oc-  
 cupied as the first Treasurer of the United  
 States. An organization was formed and  
 application made to Congress for an appro-  
 priation, which failed. These proceedings  
 attracted wide attention at the time, and  
 seem to have led to the inference that the  
 grave is unmarked.

On last Decoration Day a delegation from  
 the G. A. R. Post proceeded to the cemetery  
 at Belmont and placed flowers upon the  
 General's grave.

W. W.

Pleasant Mount, Aug. 31, 1887.

#### Further Meredith Correspondence.

Reference was made by Dr. Hollister in a  
 recent issue of the RECORD to Dr. Thomas  
 Meredith Maxwell, of New York, who had  
 gathered some material relative to General  
 Thomas Meredith. The editor of the RECORD  
 addressed a note to Dr. Maxwell asking him  
 among other things if he is a relative of our  
 former esteemed townsman, the late Volney  
 Lee Maxwell, Esq. His reply is as follows:

I am a grand-nephew of Volney Lee Max-  
 well to whom you refer. He was a good, if  
 not a great man, and I always remember  
 him with affection and reverence. Wilkes-  
 Barre is my native city, but it is a long time  
 since I have made it an abiding visit. I am  
 fond of biographical and historical research  
 and that is how I happened to investigate  
 my maternal genealogy. My earliest recol-  
 lections are associated with the old Mere-  
 dith cottage, as it was called, at Carbondale,  
 Penn. Thomas Meredith, after whom I was  
 named, was a native of Philadelphia. In  
 his early days he knew Washington, as did  
 his father (Samuel), and his grandfather

Reese, who was born in Radnor County,  
 Wales, in 1705. There is a reference  
 to the two latter in Watson's Annals  
 of Philadelphia, speaking of their intimacy  
 with the Pater Patrie. The family had a  
 portrait of him, painted by Stuart, of which  
 I have a reproduction.

Samuel Meredith was born at Philadel-  
 phia, Penn'a., and was a prominent and  
 wealthy citizen of that city.

The old family name, as a patronymic, is  
 now extinct in this country. Thomas Mere-  
 dith was my mother's father, and my grand-  
 father. The family which once stood so well  
 has been unfortunate beyond precedence.  
 Everything lost and ruined, except some of  
 the old plate and rare autograph letters.  
 Reese Meredith is said to have come to this  
 country in 1730. He and his son Samuel  
 were both signers of the "non-importation  
 resolutions," Philadelphia, 1765.

I enclose my original sketch printed for  
 private distribution, from which Dr. Hol-  
 lister drew his items. I do not seek any  
 notoriety in this respect, and hope that you  
 will excuse these details.

T. MEREDITH MAXWELL.

358 East 72d Street.

REV. H. E. HAYDEN, OF WILKES-BARRE.

[Letter to the Editor.]

Dr. Hollister doubtless will pardon a cor-  
 rection of his interesting paper in the  
 RECORD on Samuel Meredith. Mr. Mere-  
 dith was a son of Reese Meredith, a na-  
 tive of Herefordshire, England, who came  
 to Philadelphia 1730, m. 1738 Martha, dau.  
 of John Carpenter, and had born, not in  
 England, but in Philadelphia, at least three  
 children:

1. Elizabeth m. Christ Church, Philadel-  
 phia, Mch. 18, 1765, Hon. George Clymer,  
 signer of the Declaration of Independence.
2. Ann m. Christ Church, June 1, 1773,  
 Hon. Henry Hill, of the Constitutional Conv.  
 of Pennsylvania, 1776.
3. Samuel, the first Treasurer of the  
 United States, born on the corner of Second  
 and Walnut streets, Philadelphia, 1741,  
 m. Christ Church, May 21, 1772, Margaret  
 Cadwallader.

No complete history of the family has yet  
 appeared, but "Keith's Provincial Counsel-  
 lors of Pennsylvania, 1733-1776," pp. 394-  
 396, gives the family of Samuel Meredith;  
 and a very full, accurate and interesting  
 sketch of Samuel, by his kinsman, Wharton  
 Dickinson, late of Scranton, will be found  
 Magazine of American History, iii., 555-  
 563.

H. E. H.

MR. WRIGHT, OF PLEASANT MOUNT.

[Letter to the Editor.]

Permit me to add a few words concerning  
 the Merediths, which are written, not in a





spirit of captious criticism but for the truth of history.

Mount Pleasant township was organized in 1798; the Cocheaton and Great Bend turnpike was completed in 1811, and this point soon became the business centre of the town. The post office was established here and named "Pleasant Mount," and the Pleasant Mount Hotel was built by John Granger in 1814, from which it will be seen that the village of Pleasant Mount began to grow and outstrip Belmont some six years before Gen. Meredith's death, and had he lived ten or fifteen years longer the course of events would not have been changed.

The credit of moving first in the matter of improving the little cemetery and instituting measures to erect a monument belongs to Miletus Brown and Henry Spencer. Dr. Harmes entered heartily into the plan when it was proposed, and when the organization alluded to in a former letter was formed Spencer was elected president, Harmes secretary and Brown treasurer.

Samuel Meredith, son of Thomas, was born at Belmont in 1823, and the family removed to the place below Carbondale in 1830, so that he was then about seven years old. He was several years younger than the writer, and I know from personal recollection that he was old enough to attend, and did attend the same school with myself in the school house which formerly stood in the valley of the Lackawaxen midway between Pleasant Mount and Belmont.

Belmont formerly comprised four dwelling houses; there are now two. The Meredith mansion, now occupied by J. W. Fowler, has been well taken care of and is in good condition. It narrowly escaped destruction in July last, being struck by lightning and the interior considerably damaged, but it was not set on fire. w. w.

PLEASANT MOUNT, Wayne Co., Sept. 15, '87.

#### Golden Wedding Anniversary.

One-half century ago Oct. 3 occurred the wedding of Caroline M. Swetland, eldest daughter of William Swetland of Wyoming, to Payne Pettebone, and the anniversary of the event was delightfully observed on Monday at the old home. The wedded couple began housekeeping at the place where they now reside. The house has of course been enlarged and repaired, but the site is the same and the occupancy by Mr. and Mrs. Pettebone has been continuous during the fifty years. They have had six children, only two of whom survive. One is a son in business with his father, the other is the wife of Allen H. Dickson, Esq. The anniversary was simple being attended by members of the family only. The most remarkable feature of the occasion was the presence of Mrs. Pettebone's mother, Mrs.

Catherine Swetland, aged 88, who is still strong and healthy, and who still keeps house in the old Swetland homestead where the wedding took place. In front of the Swetland homestead stands the water trough which was established by Mr. Swetland just fifty years ago this fall, and which for half a century has blessed the thirsty horses on the main road through the valley. The laying of the pipe in that trough was the first work done in the valley by Bester Payne, father of Hon. H. B. Payne. Bester Payne subsequently removed his pipe factory from Honesdale to Kingston. The old store house of William Swetland & Co., where he and Mr. Pettebone carried on their large general store business in early times still stands. No mercantile business has been transacted there since 1830, but Mr. Pettebone has maintained his business office in the adjoining store office. In 1837 goods purchased in New York were sent by sloop to Rondout, thence by canal to Honesdale, thence by the gravity road to Carbondale and thence by team to Wilkes-Barre. From Philadelphia they went by Chesapeake and Delaware Canal to Havre de Grace, thence by Susquehanna Canal to Columbia and thence by Pennsylvania Canal to Wilkes-Barre. In pursuance of the provisions of Mr. Swetland's will the old Forty Fort church was repaired in 1865 and is now again being put in order by a committee of the Forty Fort Cemetery Association, of which Mr. Pettebone is chairman.

Mr. Pettebone is still actively engaged in business. He has a large plantation in Louisiana,—is in partnership with his son in the Wyoming Shovel Works under the firm name of P. Pettebone & Son, which is now a successful and thriving industry,—is a director in several banking institutions,—is one of the committee on the erection of the Nelson Memorial Hall at Kingston and has besides many other enterprises of business and charity. He will be seventy-four years old next December.

There are few people now surviving who were present at the wedding although the assemblage was a large and gay one. The names of only five survivors can now be recalled. Thomas F. Atherton was groomsmen and the bridesmaid was Rosanna Shoemaker, now Mrs. Col. Ira Tripp, of Saranton, where there is a promise or a probability of a golden wedding not many months hence. The wedding took place at seven o'clock in the evening and the next morning the bride and groom started on their wedding journey, which was by carriage to New York and Philadelphia. This carriage was a buggy expressly hired for the trip. It took one month to make the journey and venison was frequently supplied at the stage stations on the route,





### Half a Century in Journalism.

Capt. S. L. Ennis hands the *RECORD* a copy of the first issue of the *Public Ledger*, of Philadelphia. It bears date of March 25, 1836, and is well printed and almost free from typographical errors. It is a trifle more than one fourth as large as the *RECORD* and bears little semblance to the *Ledger* of to-day, though a few peculiarities are still retained, as headings in brackets "Reported for the *Public Ledger*." Unlike most newspaper ventures the *Ledger* began with an advertising patronage sufficient to ensure it a handsome future—it having one-half its space with advertisements, set solid, in small type. The editorial announcement occupies a column and a quarter, and the purpose of the *Ledger* was to furnish the worthy poor with a penny paper, there already being a plentiful sufficiency of higher priced journals. A police reporter and a collector of news had been employed and the publishers guaranteed publication for one year at least. The chief item of news was the report of mayor's court to which two full columns were devoted—the record of the preceding week. A local item states that four daily lines of stages between Philadelphia and Pittsburg are unable to carry all the passengers and in another column is an advertisement of a combined canal and railroad line between those cities. That Congress was almost the same then as now is shown by this item: "The Congressional news up to this date possesses not the slightest interest—Congress seems determined to fritter away its time, instead of rendering it profitable to the nation—shame on such tardy legislation."

### A Pre-Historic Burial Ground.

Our former townsman, H. C. Wilson, now of Mt. Vernon, O., has the largest collection of Indian relics in Ohio. Nearly all were found on his own farm, Knox County, as well as neighboring counties, being particularly prolific in aboriginal remains. From the Mt. Vernon *Republican* we clip the following:

Licking County has long been noted for its richness in aboriginal remains, consisting of mounds, fortifications, etc., but recently in the vicinity of Homer, ten miles south of this city, there has been a discovery which taken in connection with the surrounding forts and mounds is one of the most wonderful which has yet been unearthed.

The find consists of an immense number of human skeletons, buried in a promiscuous heap, together with ancient pottery, arrows and spear heads, etc. The location is almost within the village of Homer, on the south bank of the creek and adjoining the cemetery.

The remains were exposed by the erosion of the bank of the stream caused by the late freshets. The condition of the remains clearly show that the place was not a regular burial ground, but that the bodies are in all probability those of warriors, slain in some terrible battle at this place. The number and position of the skeletons precludes the possibility of anything but a battle to account for them, as there must be thousands heaped together in a huge trench. In the memory of those yet living there existed a large fortification adjoining the place where these bodies are found, but the creek has washed it away, and now by the same action brings to our gaze the remains of those who sent up their last defiant war whoop on this prehistoric battle ground.

### An Institute Teacher Dead.

Mrs. Faith C. Hosmer died on the 31st of August, 1887, at her home in Rockford, Ill., after a severe illness of five days. For many years she was associate principal of the Wilkes-Barre Female Institute in connection with Miss E. H. Rockwell. She had been engaged in teaching for over fifty years and only ceased when overcome with the infirmities of old age. She was in the neighborhood of 70 years of age.

### Has Taken Wilkes-Barre Papers 72 Years

CARBONDALE, Oct. 8, 1887.—EDITOR *RECORD*: Enclosed you will find one dollar, for which send *RECORD OF THE TIMES* another year. At the commencement of the war of 1812, I was a constant reader of Charles Miner's *Gleaner*—for a ten year old boy, I felt a great interest in the "War News." That feeling continued with me to the end of the war in 1815, and at that time I became a subscriber to both Mr. Miner's and Steuben Butler's papers. On the 1st of March 1825, I left Wilkes-Barre and settled down in the village of Dundaff—staid there 22 years, then moved to Carbondale, first of April 1847, and in all these 72 years I have taken at least two papers from my native town—Wilkes-Barre. In 1834 I became a subscriber to the *New Yorker*, published by Horace Greely & Co., afterwards the name was changed to *Log Cabin*, and finally in 1840, I think, it was changed again and called the *New York Tribune*. It was at first issued weekly, then semi-weekly and finally daily, and I still consider it Horace Greely's paper, and have from 1834 up to 1887, 53 years. When I get talking or writing on these old matters, I hardly know when or where to stop. D. YARINGTON.





## AN OLD-TIME MILITARY COMPANY.

A Hitherto Unpublished Muster Roll  
Copied from an Ancient Diary of  
Christopher Hurlbut of Hanover Town-  
ship.

"Rolls of the First Company of the 5th  
Regiment of militia in the State of Connec-  
ticut, under the command of Captain John  
Franklin:

Captain—John Franklin.

Lieutenants—Daniel Gore, Roswel Frank-  
lin, Nathan Kingsley.

Ensign—John Hagemen.

Sergeants—Daniel Iugersoll, William  
Hibbard, William Jackson, John Hurlbut,  
Jr.

Corporals—Benjamin Baley, Joseph Elliot,  
Henry Harding, John Fuller.

Drummer—William Houck.

Pifer—William Smith, Jr.

## RANK AND FILE.

"Asa Bennett,	Nathan Carey,
Isaac Bennett,	John Carey,
Elisha Bennett,	David Brown,
Ishmael Bennett, Jr.,	James Sutton,
Oliver Bennett,	Abel Yarrington,
Josiah Pell,	Jiles Slocum,
William Ross,	William Lauterman,
Frederick Frey,	Isaac Vannorman,
John Spalding,	John Borien,
Ephraim Tyler,	Nichodemus Traverse,
David Brewster,	Derick Westbrook,
William Fish,	Leonard Westbrook,
George Charles,	William Williams,
John Lauterman,	Reuben Harrington,
Joseph Vannorman,	Clement West,
Daniel Sherwood,	Preserved Cooley,
Joseph Thomas,	Nathaniel Walker,
Richard Inman,	Samuel Gore,
John Inman,	John Gore,
Edward Inman,	Benjamin Carey,
Edward Spencer,	Avery Gore,
Walter Spencer,	Nathan Wade,
Joseph Corey,	James Grimes,
Ebenezer Hibbard,	Thomas Reed,
	Jabez Sill, Jr."

This company was formed, certainly, pre-  
vious to June 4, 1782, for the defence of  
Wyoming from the Indians, during the  
Revolutionary War, after the Massacre of  
Wyoming. This negative date is fixed by  
the circumstance that on the same page of  
the rolls, after the name of "Thomas Reed,"  
the last one on the roll, and immediately  
under it a *diary* is commenced, beginning  
the 4th of June—and in that diary, going on  
day by day, is:

"July 8—Showery; went into the woods to  
get shingles, but got none. Messrs. Jime-  
son and Chapman killed by the Indians on  
the road about half a mile from the house."  
That was his own house, the Hurlbut house,  
Christopher Hurlbut being the diarist.

July 9th—Clear; attended the funeral of  
the slain men.

10th—Clear and cool; hoed corn.

11th—Clear, hoed some and went to  
Nathan Carey's wedding.

12th—Clear, on the same business, at  
night came home."

Without going any further into the diary,  
we'll only say here that John "Jameson"  
and Asa "Chapman" were killed by Indians  
on the 8th of July, 1782 in the road at the  
"Hanover Green," now Hanover Cemetery.

The "Roll is not marked as if it had been  
kept by the first sergeant for use in a mil-  
itary way. This one is supposed to have  
been kept by Christopher Hurlbut who was  
not a member of the company though his  
brother John was; and as John Hurlbut's  
name is put down with a "Junior" to it, it  
is to be supposed that his father was still  
living. John Hurlbut, Sr., died in March,  
1783, so that this roll is probably older than  
that. There is no date to it.

H. B. PLUMB.

Note—Mr. Miner's History of Wyoming, pp.  
247 and 485, states that Nathan Kingsley  
was killed by Indians in Wilkes-Barre, Nov.  
2, 1778. His father had previously been  
taken prisoner, and he, (the son) was living  
with Jonathan Slocum, and, according to  
Mr. Miner, was only fifteen years of age.  
This could not have been the Lieut. Nathan  
Kingsley of this company. Had his father  
escaped from the Indians and returned pre-  
vious to the beginning of the year 1782?  
Fifteen of these men were Hanover men.

P.

## A Century of Legal Life.

A correspondent of the RECORD calls at-  
tention to the fact that this is the centennial  
year of the opening of the first court held  
for Luzerne County, and asks that the fol-  
lowing from Pearce's Annals, be published:

"On the 27th of May, 1787, Timothy  
Pickering, James Nesbitt, Obadiah Gore,  
Nathan Kingsley, Benjamin Carpenter,  
Matthias Hollenback and William Hooker  
Smith, who had been commissioned justices  
of the court of common pleas, etc., as pro-  
vided in the first Constitution of the State,  
assembled at the house of Colonel Zebulon  
Butler, at the corner of Northampton and  
River Streets, Wilkes-Barre, and proclama-  
tion being made by Lord Butler, high  
sheriff, for all persons to keep silence, the  
commissions of the county officers were  
read, and the oaths of office were adminis-  
tered by Timothy Pickering and Col. Nathan  
Denison. This was the first court held for  
Luzerne County. The duties of prothono-  
tary, register, recorder and clerk of court  
were performed by Timothy Pickering, who  
was a lawyer of fine ability. Rosewell  
Welles, Ebenezer Bowman, Putnam Cathin  
and William Nichols were admitted and  
sworn as attorneys-at-law."





### THE SHORTEST WILL ON RECORD.

Some Information as to the Testatrix and to Her Father, Distinguished as an Editor and as a Statesman.

The supposition of the *Scranton Republican* that a certain will of 16 words filed with the register of wills of Lackawanna County, is the shortest will on record is incorrect. What is believed to be the shortest will on record is one filed with the register of wills at Wilkes-Barre. It comprises, signature included, nine words and is as follows:

"Emily R. Miner is my heir.

SARAH K. MINER."

The testatrix was the blind daughter of Charles Miner, the historian of Wyoming Valley, and the beneficiary is her niece, the eldest daughter of William P. Miner, founder of the *RECORD*. This will, which was filed Aug. 19, 1873, was written with lead pencil on a sheet of note paper and was contained in an envelope on which was written in pencil

"Read this when I am dead."

Upon being filed, the will was accompanied by an affidavit of Jesse Thomas, brother-in-law of the testatrix and father of Isaac M. Thomas, averring that he was positive the instrument was in the writing of Sarah K. Miner.

Miss Miner was an exceedingly gifted woman, her deprivation of vision being counterbalanced by a marvelous memory. When her father was engaged in collecting data for his forthcoming history of Wyoming, his blind daughter accompanied him on his visits to the surviving pioneers of the trying days of 1778, listened closely to their narratives, and recalled them to her father upon returning home to put his data on paper. She learned to read by touching the large wooden types in her father's printing office. When sent to an institution for teaching the blind, her parents were informed that she was the first child ever admitted who was able to read. She was not born blind, but lost her sight very early in childhood.

Her father, who was born in Connecticut in 1780, came to Wilkes-Barre at the age of 19 and in 1802 joined his brother, Asher Miner, in the publication of the *Luzerne Federalist*, successor to the *Wilkes-Barre Gazette*. Two years later Asher withdrew and went to Doylestown where he established the *Bucks County Intelligencer*, which still carries his honored name as founder. Charles Miner continued publishing the *Federalist* until 1810, when he sold to Sidney Tracy and Steuben Butler, who changed its name to the *Gleaner*. Charles, however, continuing to contribute to its editorial columns until 1816, when the

office was sold to Isaac A. Chapman. Mr. Miner then engaged in Philadelphia journalism for a brief space, going thence to West Chester in 1817, where he established the *Village Record*, publishing the same for 17 years, his brother Asher having meanwhile joined him as partner in 1825. The *Village Record*, like his brother's *Intelligencer*, was well founded and is still a vigorous journal, published by the same family (Evans), to whom the Miner brothers sold in 1834.

[Since the above was in type we are informed by the present publishers that upon going to West Chester Mr. Miner bought the *Chester County Federalist*, (Aug. 6, 1817) and changed its name to *Village Record* Jan. 7, 1818.—EDITOR.]

Charles Miner was distinguished, not only as an editor but as a statesman and as a philanthropist. His contributions to the *Gleaner* attracted wide spread attention, particularly a series entitled "Essays from the Desk of Poor Robert the Scribe," some of which were attributed to Benjamin Franklin.

Capt. James P. Dennis has handed the *RECORD* an autograph letter written from Washington in 1815 to Judge Jesse Fell, of Wilkes-Barre, by Abraham Bradley. It has the following reference to a series of articles then being written by Charles Miner:

"P. S.—The editor of the *Gleaner* has acquired the highest reputation among all ranks of people and served his country and the cause he has espoused, at least equal to any editor in the United States. The humor and pleasantry with which he fills his columns, serve more to the promotion of good morals than the most powerful arguments of the superb genius. And when he touches upon politics, under the signature of 'Uncle John,' the humor and sarcasm are almost irresistible. His productions are copied into most of the papers from Maine to Ohio, and some of those to the South. Even the *National Intelligencer* cannot withhold, with all his Democratic austerity, from republishing some pieces which have no acrimony against his beloved system of Democracy. Every one is charmed."

The writer of the letter referred to was a lawyer in Wilkes-Barre at one time. He was a graduate at Judge Reeve's law school in Litchfield, Conn., and was one of the judges of the Court of Common Pleas in Luzerne. A son, Abraham Bradley, Jr., was Assistant Postmaster General under Washington, practically Postmaster General.

While in Congress, to which Mr. Miner was twice elected, serving from 1824 to 1829, he introduced a bill for the suppression of





the slave trade in the District of Columbia and boldly advocated the measure contrary to the advice of timid friends, but the slave power was as yet too strong and the bill was defeated. Mr. Miner was a strong advocate of protection to American industry, and his correspondence embraced such distinguished names as Webster, Clay and John Quincy Adams.

Mr. Miner died near Wilkes-Barre at the age of 85.

#### SOME UNPUBLISHED RECORDS.

##### Diary of Deacon John Hurlbut—His Trip to Wyoming and Back to Connecticut—Early Surveys.

EDITOR RECORD: William S. and Myron Hurlbut, of Arkport, N. Y., have loaned me some ancient papers or documents relating to the early settlement of Wyoming and Delaware lands. The papers, or some of them, are somewhat worn, and some parts have been torn off and lost, so that this copy will not begin at the commencement of the work, but such as it is I send you.

The date of the transactions mentioned is probably 1773, except the meeting in Norwich, Connecticut. It is the work of "Deacon" John Hurlbut. I hope some of your readers can tell where the towns of Parkbury and Huntington were or are, and also where the district of Groton Susquehanna Purchase was.

H. B. PLUMB.

"Afternoon Mr. Chapman drew the plan of intervale. These intervale near the river are generally very good, being overflowed frequently in winter, the quantity of these low lands in both towns is about 4 or 5 thousand acres that is dry enough to bear English grass, to which may be added about, of land contiguous, 3 thousand of swamp, part of it of \*\* good kind and the rest a bad kind, being composed \*\* willow or bog meadow \*\* acres of which the \*\* are about 3 feet high and entirely clear of trees or bush. The timber on the best part is on ye south end beach, elm, shagbarks, walnut, maple, ash, birch, black and white oak, but towards the middle of the town is chiefly walnut; some white pine and hemlock on points and higher lands, batternut also and chestnut; the smaller growth is thorn; black, speckled and common alder, spice wood, hazle and some other small trash. Of the herbs or grass kind are mandrakes, nettles, wild grass or joint, wild oats, spikenard, balm, and a variety of other kind of herbs. Gooseberry bushes also . . . and other weeds to which low lands are incident.

Thursday, May ye 20th—A little wet, but warm and sunshine about 10 o'clock.

This day was spent in planning the intervale lots.

Friday May ye 21st. Layed out 8 lots of intervale in Parkbury next adjoining those laid out which are No. 30 to 37. At night drew 17 lots. My lot was 32.

There is in this town 5 houses, about 30 men and lads, 5 women. The town is situate on ye side of an hill facing toward ye N. W. about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile from ye river. The lands from ye meadow generally rise a little too high for convenience altho in many places the ascent is very easy, the timber is chiefly white pine but in some white oak, but not of ye best kind, and ye land mostly too stony, but far from being ledgy, and about a mile and one-half from ye fort the intervale or river land is barked with vast large plains, with a few yellow pine. This land is sandy, but entirely free from stone, covered with a sort of vine and wintergreen. The bark lands and hills are well watered with little brooks and springs.

Saturday, May ye 22nd. Bounded out a number of our lots, and my lot in particular. This days work was very bad, for after wading all day came on a shower at night and we had near 4 miles to travel thro wet bushes.

Sabbath day, May ye 23rd. Attended meeting with Capt. Parke.

The number and names of lots laid out and drawn:

Elisha Gifford. ....	1	Nethanell Gates. ....	24
Abel N. Kimbal. ....	2	Daniel Denton. ....	25
Capt. Silas Park. ....	3	David Gates. ....	26
Benjamin Lathrop. ....	4	Isaac Parish. ....	27
Kendrel Edwards. ....	5	Ezekiel Yerington. ....	28
Gilbert Denton. ....	6	Hezekiah Bingham. ....	29
Ephraim Killam. ....	7	Capt. Silas Park. ....	30
William Edwards. ....	8	Lebeus Lathrop. ....	31
Jonathan Haskal. ....	9	John Hurlbut. ....	32
Capt. Silas Park. ....	10	William Pellet. ....	33
Elijah Park. ....	11	John Pellet. ....	34
Samuel Hellett. ....	12	Walter Kimbal. ....	35
Jephthah Killam. ....	13	Stephen Parish. ....	36
John Westbrook. ....	14	Eliab Farnam. ....	37
Matthias Button. ....	15	Orin Chapman. ....	38
John Ansley. ....	16	Capt. Silas Park. ....	39
Capt. Zeb. Parrish. ....	17	Ezra Tracy. ....	40
Reuben Jones. ....	18	Jeremiah Park. ....	41
Deliverance Adams. ....	19	Jacob Kimbal. ....	42
James Adams. ....	20	Deacon Griswold. ....	43
Elijah Witter. ....	21	Zadock Killam. ....	44
James Dye. ....	22	Obadiah Gore, Jr. ....	45
Abner Newton. ....	23		

Monday, May ye 24th.—About 10th clock, passed Laquanack River and took my journey to Sasquashanah, in company with Capt. Parish & Mr. Benajah Park, went that day to Laquanar, about—32 miles.

Tuesday, May ye 25th.—Visited Mr. Johnson at Chapman Mills, went to Wilkbury Fort—3 miles. In ye afternoon went over to Capt. Gore's in Kingston, then returned to Wilkbury. Went up to Abraham's Plains. Again returned to ye Fort. At a town meeting at night; returned to King-





ston to Benedict Satterly's. Slept there that night.

Wednesday, May ye 20th—Went down on ye fields to Plymouth and then back to Capt. Gores, then returned to Wilkburly again. Visited Mr. Johnson. Was with him about two hours and a half. Found him in a low disconsolate state, but looking like rain rid for Laquawanar Fort. Came on a very black heavy cloud of thunder and rain in ye shower reached ye fort. After ye rain rid to Rason's, about two miles. Tarried there that night.

Thursday, May ye 27th—Came thro Capow's great hill and great swamp at night; came to Hallet's Ferry and so to ye fort.

Friday, May ye 20th. Settled my affairs at Parkbury with ye settlers.

Saturday, May ye 29th. Took my journey towards home; tarried that night on ye east of Delaware River, at Isaac Fanarties, in ye Minisinks.

Sunday, May ye 30th. Rode to Honas Deikers; breakfasted there; afternoon rid 20 miles to Owen's.

Monday, May ye 31st. To walking thence to North River about noon, thence up ye Fishkills to Bakers in ye Patents.

Tuesday, June ye 1st. Thro ye Patents kent into Litchfield to Mack Neals; these 3 days very hot and dry; especially the last."

#### MISCELLANEOUS MEMORANDA.

Kingston on ye Susquehanna, May ye 26th, 1773.

Received of John Hurlbut ye sum of one pound, ten shillings and 3d. I say received for me. STEPHEN HURLBUT.

1,241  
14

1,255 acres and 35 rods. A streight line from ye bounds at each end of ye town of Huntington, leaveth 1,255 acres on ye east side and taketh off the town of Parkbury 569 acres. 1,255 less 569—686.

My cost of purchase and expense on ye affairs of the Western Lands. Feby ye 2nd, A. D. 1773:

Purchased $\frac{1}{2}$ a Susquahannah	
Right cash.....	£5 0s 0d
Paid Capt. Joseph Hurlbut.....	0 3 0
Expense .....	0 5 0
March ye 15th took a deed of gift of ye Delaware 2nd purchase and part of ye 1st purchase deed....	0 1 0
Expense .....	0 5 0
May ye 10th paid to Capt. Park for a draught of that grant.....	0 18 0
For lotting out.....	0 9 0
For lotting out ye town of Huntington.....	0 8 0
August ye 12th, at a meeting of said town for drawing lots. Ex-	

pence.....	0 5 0
March ye 15th and 16th, 1774, at a meeting in Norwich respecting ye Delaware rights. Expence...	0 10 0

	8 4 0
Received of Captain Hurlbut....	0 3 0

Remains .....	£8 1s 0d
Oct., 1774, paid to my brother Stephen, for cost and expenses in surveying and lotting my rights in ye district of Groton Susquehanna purchase.....	£0 12s 0d

#### West Branch History.

The October issue of the *Historical Journal*, published by Col. J. F. McGinness at Williamsport, is full of interesting matter. Samuel Macley's journal is continued at great length.

Promise is given of an illustrated article on "Old Fort Augusta," which stood at the confluence of the North and West Branches of the Susquehanna at what is now Sunbury. Persons possessing relics of the fort, incidents or reminiscences of its early defenders, are requested to notify the editor.

Another promised article of interest is the Wyoming Valley and a sketch of Methodism on the North Branch, by C. F. Hill, of Hazleton.

The editor speaks thus kindly of the *Historical Record*:

"The *Historical Record*, published at Wilkes-Barre, improves as it grows older. The current number is exceedingly valuable, being filled with choice matter relating to early times in the Wyoming region. An illustrated article entitled "Relics of the Red Men" is alone worth a year's subscription, which is only \$1.50."

We regret to note that Col. McGinness has concluded not to publish a revised edition of his valuable "History of the West Branch Valley," owing to improbability of making it a financial success. It only remains therefore, for persons interested in that subject to become subscribers to the author's *Historical Journal*, published monthly at \$2 a year.

#### Kind Words from Dr. Egle.

Of the *Historical Record* the Harrisburg Telegraph, in its excellent notes and queries department says:

The *Historical Record*, of Wilkes-Barre, has reached its eleventh number. It is freighted with the antiquarian lore of the past, and the history of the present, thus making it one of the most valuable repositories, not only of Wyoming but of State information. The RECORD newspaper publishers are doing a good work, and we trust they may see their way clear to continue





this historical monthly for years to come. Their work has a permanent value to everybody.

#### EARLY SUSQUEHANNA NAVIGATION.

##### Cruise of the Ill Fated Steamboat Bearing the Name of the River—Contemporaneous Account of Her Destruction.

More than sixty years ago, before the advent of canals and railroads, the enterprising merchants of Baltimore comprehended the importance to their material business interests of facilitating the mode of transportation of the lumber, grain, iron and whisky trade of the Susquehanna Valley, then an important factor in the home traffic of that city, lying so conveniently at the lower extremity of Pennsylvania's rich agricultural and mineral centre. Large sums of money had been expended in removing obstructions in the rocky channel of our noble, (but rapid and impracticable for navigation) river below Columbia, so as to admit the passage of arks and rafts down stream on their way to tide. A canal had been constructed from Port Deposit, northward, in order that these up-river craft might avoid the shoals and dangerous reefs of the first ten miles above tide water, after the spring freshets had subsided, but as yet there was no satisfactory way of returning to the producers of incoming commerce such articles of merchandise as they would naturally require in return for their raw products of forest, field and mine.

It was decided to make the attempt to establish steamboat navigation on the river in order to overcome this serious obstacle in the way of exchange commerce. The first attempt at steamboat navigation above tide water was made in 1825. A small steamboat named the *Susquehanna*, had been built in Baltimore and towed up to Port Deposit in the spring of that year. The first mention we have in the newspapers of the day is found in the *Harrisburg Chronicle*, which says:

"The *Susquehanna* was expected at Columbia on Sunday night, Tuesday's reports were, that she had not got to Columbia. Eye-witnesses to her progress put the matter to rest on Wednesday: they had seen her a short distance above the head of the Maryland Canal with a posse of men tugging at the ropes, and when they had tagged nine miles gave up the job. So ended all the romance about the *Susquehanna*. She drew too much water (22 inches) for the purpose and started at the wrong point. Watermen say that the crookedness of the channel, with the rapidity of the current, makes it utterly impossible for a steamboat to ascend the

falls between the head of the canal and Columbia."

If any of our readers, in their boyhood days, ever engaged in the arduous, though exciting, labor of "running to tide" on lumber rafts, and then tramping back over Lancaster hills for a fresh start next morning, they will appreciate the force of the above editorial remark. For further particulars apply to W. N. Jennings, whiom river pilot through Turkey Hill, Barger's reef, Eshelman's sluice, etc.

The *Chronicle* article says further: "We have a report that Mr. Winchester, of Baltimore, has contracted for the building of a steamboat at York Haven. We also learn that the York Co. are making great progress with the sheet-iron steamboat, and that she will be launched about the 4th of July."

This sheet iron boat was called the *Codorus*, and early in April of the next year ascended the river as far as Binghamton, after which she returned to York Haven, her captain, a Mr. Elger, reporting that navigation of the *Susquehanna* by steam was impracticable.

Some of our older citizens doubtless remember to have seen her lying moored to the shore about abreast of the present Market Street sewer, and how the men, women and children of the old borough gathered on the common to admire so great a triumph in the art of marine architecture, and enjoy a ride to Forty Fort and return on the wonderful craft.

As regards the boat said to have been contracted for by Mr. Winchester, there seems to be some mystery. We find other newspaper mention of her saying that she was almost completed and would soon be ready to take to the water, and yet there is no certainty of her ever having been used in any way on the river. And again, we are not informed that the *Susquehanna* ever succeeded in passing the rapids below Columbia, and it is difficult to see how she could, and yet Mr. Pearce in his "Annals of Luzerne" says the *Susquehanna* was the identical boat that exploded her boiler at Berwick the next spring, while the Maryland commissioners in their official report give the name as the *Susquehanna and Baltimore*. It is just possible that the fatal explosion may have occurred on board Mr. Winchester's boat of that name, and that the original *Susquehanna* never succeeded in getting through the lower Rapids.

The *Susquehanna and Baltimore*, say the Maryland Commissioners, was built in the spring of 1825, (the *Susquehanna* was on the river in early spring) at the expense of a number of citizens of Baltimore, for the express purpose of making an experiment to navigate the waters of the *Susquehanna* above the Conewago Falls, and was placed





under the care of Capt. Cornwell, (Pearce says Collins), an experienced river pilot; she was accompanied on her trial trip on this portion of the river by a board of Commissioners of the State of Maryland, Messrs. Patterson, Ellicott and Morris, three distinguished citizens of Baltimore. Capt. Cornwell had already in March made several successful trips as far up as Northumberland and Danville on the North Branch and to Milton on the West Branch and returned to York Haven without accident. At noon on the 27th of April, 1826, the boat started from York Haven, having in tow a large keel boat capable of carrying a thousand bushels of wheat, and proceeded on her fatal trip, arriving at the Nescopeck Falls at 4 o'clock of May 3. At these falls there was an outer and an artificial inner channel of shallow water for the accommodation of rafts and arks. It was decided by Capt. Cornwell after consulting with other river men on board to try first the main, or deep water channel, as they feared the water might be too shallow in the artificial channel to allow the boat to pass. The current is very strong in the main channel, and the captain argued that if the boat would not stem it, that he could then drop back and try the other one. The boat made a halt in a small eddy below the falls on the east side of the river and some of the passengers went ashore; this was the case with the Maryland Commissioners.

The boat was directed into the main channel, and had proceeded perhaps two thirds of the distance through the falls, when she ceased to make further progress, the engine was stopped and she was permitted to drift back to the foot of the rapid, where she struck upon a wall dividing the artificial from the main channel, and at that instant one of her boilers exploded at both ends. The scene was as awful as the imagination can picture. Two of the passengers on board, named John Turk and Seber Whitmarsh, raftmen from Chenango, N. Y., were thrown into the river, where they met with an instant death, if not by the explosion, certainly by drowning in the swift current of the river; William Camp, a merchant from Owego, was fatally scalded by escaping steam. David Rose, of Chenango, N. Y., was also fatally injured. Quincy Maynard, the engineer, as stated in the account published in the *Danville Watchman* one week after the occurrence, was not expected to recover. Christian Brobst, of Catawissa, father of our late townsman S. D. Brobst, and Jeremiah Miller, of Juniata, were seriously injured. Messrs. Woodside, Colt and Underwood, of Danville, were more or less injured, as were Messrs. Barton

Hurley, Foster and Col. Paxton, of Catawissa, and Benjamin Edwards, of Braintrim, Luzerne Co. It was said by somebody on board that at the time of the explosion a passenger was holding down the lever of the safety valve, but why this should be done after the boat had ceased her efforts to pull through is difficult to conjecture. Thus ended this second attempt to navigate the Susquehanna by steam power. W. J.

#### Emanuel Marshall's Speedy Ancestor.

At the foot of the Wilkes-Barre Mountain, on the way from Wilkes-Barre to Oliver's Mills, lives a well-known Wilkes-Barrean, Emanuel Marshall. He comes from an old pre-Revolutionary family, and he is fond of telling about the troublous times of the last century. His great-grandfather was one of the men who was employed by the Proprietary Government, just 150 years ago this September month, to participate in what has since been the historic walking purchase. Penn had bought a lot of land on the Delaware half a century before, but he was such an honest old Quaker that he would take no advantage of the Indians and so the three days' walk, which was to limit the purchase, was only such an one as Penn himself and the Indians could accomplish.

Not so scrupulous were his successors. They employed men who were famous for their abilities as fast walkers and they were to have a compensation of five pounds in money and 500 acres of land in the purchase. The limit of the purchase was to be a point as far distant as could be walked from sunrise of one day to noon of the next day. Of the three, Marshall was the only one who did not break down, he covering sixty miles. The Delaware Indians always considered that the Proprietaries had swindled them, nor would they relinquish the land until compelled by the Six Nations, six years later, to do so. The walk was undoubtedly one of the causes which afterwards led to war and bloodshed; and the first murder in the Province, Dr. Eggle says in his *History of Pennsylvania*, was on the very land they believed themselves cheated out of. When the Surveyor General afterwards passed over this ground it took him four days to cover what Marshall had covered in a day and a half.

Of Marshall's companions one who broke down on the way never recovered from the strain, but lived only a few years. The second who also fell by the way died of exhaustion in three days. Marshall, who was a native of Bucks County, was a noted hunter and chain carrier. He lived and died on Marshall's Island in the Delaware, each the age of 90.





## TWO SUICIDES.

## Reminiscences Called up by a New York Lawyer's Visit in Search of Evidence.

A certain New York attorney has been in Wilkes-Barre in consultation with a number of our leading citizens on business that recalls the many interesting events that transpired in connection with the residence and experience of Jay Gould and his then partners in this county. Leupp, Lee & Co. was the name of the firm which had the famous controversy with Gould concerning the Gouldsboro tannery with its pitched battles, its arrests, its long drawn out equity suits, its receivership, etc., all which ended in a small sum being secured to Leupp, Lee & Co. and in Gould's leaving the county with a borrowed \$5 bill in his pocket to pay his way back to New York whence he came here on his then disappointed search for a fortune.

It is noted as one of the tragic features of the association of these men that both Leupp and Lee afterwards suicided. The former was entertaining a number of his friends in New York, the conversation turned on firearms. Leupp left his guests and repaired to his own bed room up stairs. Here he took down from its usual resting place a remarkable sort of gun. He took it apart, carefully put it together again, and then deliberately blew his brains out with it.

Lee married his housekeeper after he left here and finally took up his residence at Orangeville, N. J. It was at this place he put an end to his life, a few years ago, but not, as in the other case, with any specially dramatic accompaniments. It is with reference to a dispute that has arisen under his will that the New York lawyer came here. The will is disputed on the ground that he was *non compos mentis*, as they say in law, and legally incapable of making a will, and the intention of the disputors is to secure depositions from such of our citizens as knew him at the time of his residence here, to the effect that he was even then not in his right mind. Whether such depositions can be secured is a question. He is remembered as a very peculiar and eccentric man, but it does not follow that he was mad. Many men have even more pronounced oddities and yet are fully capable, and disposed to the doing, of everything as the law contemplates that it shall be done.

He was a bachelor when he lived here and for a time occupied rooms in the old Dennis tavern which stood at the corner of Franklin and Market Streets, where the Second National Bank now is. Afterwards he moved to the boarding house on the corner of the alley on Franklin Street, west side, where the broker shops and lawyers' offices are to-day. Here he used to do his work at a table piled high with papers and in

a room littered with them. He was a great reader and well up in literature of all kinds. In attestation of his attainments and standing in this regard is the fact that when he afterwards removed to New York he became a member of the famous Century Club. He was fond of having his friends come to his room and eat with him. Nearly always he would keep a pot containing soup, of which he was evidently very appreciative, boiling on a stove in one of his rooms. He made jellies himself, that is with his own hands. He would boil eggs and feed his guests with meals composed of these and other articles, the product of his own culinary genius. He was very greatly exercised by the great flood of 1865, when the Susquehanna found its way into our streets as far up as the Square and when River, Franklin, Canal and other streets were navigated for some time in boats. During this period he was fond of parading in the water up and down River Street in great long boots reaching up to his middle, and a rope tied around his waist, with a long end coiled, which he carried in his hand, and which he said was to be thrown to the rescue of any poor devil who might be brought helplessly down the swollen stream from any point above, or to any boy or woman who should topple from his or her boat, or otherwise be placed in danger of being drowned. He traversed this beat patiently during nearly all the continuance of the flood. It is remembered that once during this time he stopped at Mrs. Woodbury's house and asked for a glass of brandy. The liquor was given to him, but instead of drinking it he poured it into his boots, remarking that in that place it would be a reasonably sure preventive against his taking cold.

Other of his peculiarities are remembered and will doubtless be sworn to for the use of those who aim to overset the suicide's will, but whether they should avail to accomplish that object may well be questioned. It certainly should not be called evidence of insanity that a man prefers brandy in his boots to brandy in his belly. C. E. J.

## Early Susquehanna Manuscripts.

The *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* for October contains the following note:

[MS. on the Susquehanna and bordering country.—The British Historical Manuscripts Commission, in the Appendix to their 8th Report, mention a manuscript of some value to students of Pennsylvania history. "Official report of 48 pp., May, 1778, 'Description de la riviere de Susquehanna, et du pays qui la borde, depuis Harris's Ferry jusqu'à l'embouchure.' MS. still or recently in the possession of Lord Braybrooke, of Braybrooke, at Audley End, Saffron, Walden, Sussex."]





**The Sullivan Expedition Journals.**

The journals, maps, etc., of General John Sullivan's military expeditions against the "Six Nations" of Indians in 1779, have been prepared in a well-bound volume by Secretary of State Cook in accordance with a bill passed in the New York Legislature. The journals of General Sullivan's lieutenants and assistants are included, and the volume contains excellent steel engravings of General Sullivan, Brigadier General James Clinton, Colonel Peter Gansevoort and Colonel Philip Van Cortlandt, and complete records of centennial celebrations of the highly interesting events in which General Sullivan participated.

[Letter to the Editor.]

The State of New York, with great liberality and honor to herself, has recently published the centennial proceedings celebrating the victory of Gen. Sullivan and the forces under his command over the Indians, British and Tories at Newtown, six miles below Elmira, on the 29th of August, 1779. The publication, besides the centennial proceedings of Aug. 29, 1879, includes the historical addresses at that and other places upon the subject, journals of officers and others written at the time, roster of officers, biographical sketches, etc., etc.

Among the journals is one purporting to have been written by Maj. James Norris. On page 230, commencing Aug. 14, 1779, it will be found that this journal is an exact copy of that of Lieut. Col. Dearborn from Aug. 14 to the end. See page 70, etc.

At the conclusion of Dearborn's Journal the Norris Journal is filled out with the General Orders issued by Sullivan at the camp in Easton May 24, 1779. See Lieut. Col. Hubley's Journal, page 145, and Lieut. Col. H. Dearborn's Journal page 68.

The compiler of this publication has evidently been imposed upon, by whom I shall not attempt to say.

In examining the introduction to Norris' Journal, page 223, I find that this journal was "carefully revised and corrected" by George G. Barnum, Esq., corresponding secretary of the Buffalo Historical Society, from "an imperfect copy thereof, with several omissions and many important errors." Is Mr. Barnum the party who was guilty of supplying these "several omissions and many important errors," by copying Dearborn's Journal and making it pass for Norris'—or has he been imposed upon. It behooves him to rise and explain, and if he is not the guilty party, to let the public know who that party is. His society, who have the Norris' manuscript, ought to hunt out the imposter at any cost. He has used that society to perpetrate a great fraud.

WYOMING, Oct. 8, 1887. STEUBEN JENKINS.

[Letter to the Editor.]

In 1870 the Athens (Pa.) *Gleaner*, then devoting much space each week to historical papers, published an article entitled, "The Story of a Revolutionary Soldier." It filled two or three columns, and was endorsed by the editor, Mr. Chas. T. Huston. It gave the recollections, almost in the form of a diary, of Edwin Corwin, of General Sullivan's expedition from Aug. 20th to the end.

Corwin belonged to General Clinton's command. He begins his recollections with the assembly of Clinton's troops at "Canajohary." In Mr. Corwin's volume of Sullivan's expedition, lately issued by the State of New York, neither Corwin nor his "Recollections" are mentioned. Will Hon. Steuben Jenkins examine the article in his copy of the *Gleaner*, and give some knowledge of Corwin's "Recollections?" Who was the person who took them down "from Corwin's lips," as the preface states?

Corwin was born in Cayuga County, N. Y., Feb. 13, 1759; died Sept. 5, 1849, at the advanced age of 90 years. He was a private in the 6th Co., Captain Fowler—2d N. Y. Reg.; was at the battles of Saratoga and Monmouth—saw Andre hung, and followed Sullivan's expedition. We are told that he "had many thrilling incidents to relate." Did he leave any manuscript narratives of his Revolutionary life beyond the paper *supra*?

In this connection I beg, with profound respect, to differ with my friend, Mr. Jenkins, as to the similarity of Maj. Norris' and Gen. Dearborn's Journal of the Sullivan Expedition. A comparison of these two journals does not justify Mr. J.'s statement that the journal of Norris had been tampered with, and enlarged by a third party, copying certain portions of Dearborn's journal. The differences in language, spelling, punctuation, and the use of capital letters in those parts of Norris' journal that are similar in substance, and largely in language, to Dearborn's, are very patent. Each journal bears strong internal evidence of having been written throughout by the party to whom it is credited. And unless Mr. Jenkins has seen the original MS. of Norris' journal, and is sure that the suspected parts are not in the same writing with the part that is not suspected, his criticism is not just. Certainly no profit could be gained by any third party from such a villainous forgery as an imitation of Norris' style of writing in copying from Dearborn would be.

In defense of my friend, the honorable secretary of the Buffalo Historical Society, Mr. G. C. Barnum, I must say that I believe such an action on his part to be impossible. If Mr. Jenkins has ever been a soldier, and as such kept a diary of events solely





for his own personal pleasure, as the writer has done, he will have had an uncommon experience if he has not copied from other diaries or allowed his comrades to copy from his such events as procrastination or other causes may have prevented being recorded at the moment they happened. It is very doubtful if any single expedition that was made on either side in the war between the States (1861-1865) produced as many journals of the expedition as those of Arnold to Canada in 1776 and Sullivan to Niagara in 1779. The wonder is that among the 27 journals of the latter expedition so little exact similarity occurs. Finally, Mr. J. fails to notice that Maj. Norris was the major of Lt. Col. Dearborn's regiment in this expedition, doubtless occupying the same tent; at least sleeping under the same blanket and it is hardly probable that they failed to record the daily events in their journals at the same time. Mr. J. is unjust to both Mr. Barnum and the Buffalo Historical Society in his criticism "unless he speaks from the book." H. E. H.

#### A Former Wilkes-Barrean Dead.

The San Antonio *Express*, of Sept. 6 contains a column and a half report of a meeting of the San Antonio Bar, called to take action on the death of Major Jacob Waelder, a former Wilkes-Barrean. Deceased is spoken of in the most eulogistic terms in the speeches and resolutions. He occupied a prominent position in San Antonio and was elected to every office for which he was a candidate. He was twice elected to the Legislature and was a member of the convention which framed the State Constitution. He is described as an able and learned lawyer, a pleasant associate, an esteemed citizen, a Democrat and a christian gentleman.

He was the founder of Mr. Baur's *Waechter*, a German paper in this city, in 1842, previous to which time he had been employed in the State Department of Harrisburg as translator of German documents. In 1846, the *Waechter* says, he went to the Mexican war as a first lieutenant in the Wyoming Artillerists, and made a most creditable war record. Upon his return he studied law with Hon. L. D. Shoemaker, and was admitted to the bar in 1850, being elected district attorney the following year. In 1856 he went to Texas, where he built up a large law practice. A city in Texas bears his name.

Mr. Waelder was born in Germany in 1817. He leaves a widow and seven children, also one daughter by a former marriage, Molly Waelder, who visits Wilkes-

Barre from time to time, in company with her mother's sister, Miss Mary Lamb, who owns the property on the corner of Market and Franklin Streets, diagonally opposite the Wyoming Bank.

#### Funeral of the Late Major Waelder.

The San Antonio (Texas) *Express* of the 4th inst., gives particulars of the funeral of the late Major Jacob Waelder, formerly of Wilkes-Barre. He was buried according to the ritual of the Episcopal church, the long cortege comprising a battery of artillery, three troops of cavalry, besides numerous civic, beneficial and musical associations. The Beethoven Maennerchor sang at the grave and the Belknap Rifles fired a farewell salute.

#### Jacob Jacoby's Death.

At 1 pm. Sept. 11, Jacob Jacoby, a well-known resident of this community, died after a short illness of general debility consequent on old age. Until within the past few years he was engaged in the grocery business here, and was an industrious and upright merchant. He had resided for some time past with his son-in-law, Jacob Adams, 60 South Washington Street, where he died. He leaves two children, Josephine, wife of Mr. Adams, and Joseph. He came from Bavaria, Germany, to this city forty-six years ago, and thus ranked among our oldest German citizens. He was 84 years of age.

#### Death of Rev. Matthias W. Harris.

The sad news has been received of the death on Sept. 17, of Rev. M. W. Harris in a Western home, to which he went from Wilkes-Barre only a few months ago. The disease which struck Mr. Harris down was typhoid fever, with which he had been ill for only a fortnight. Mr. Harris was 50 years of age, and was a local minister in the Evangelical Church in this city. Last April he went to Carthage, Mo., where he accepted a charge, and was preaching up to the time of his death. While in Wilkes-Barre Mr. Harris was an active participant in the Third Party Prohibition movement and was a fluent speaker on the platform and in the pulpit. His wife and four adult children survive him. The children are Mrs. Mary Goodwin, of Centralia; Edgar F. and Harvey H. Harris, of this city; and B. S. and W. S. Harris, who are at Carthage. The latter was here at the time the news came that he was ill, and left for home at once, but arrived too late to see his father alive. Mr. Harris was buried in Carthage on Sunday, Sept. 18.





**Death of Mrs. McCarragher.**

Mrs. E. G. McCarragher, the wife of Samuel McCarragher, Esq., died Sunday morning, Oct. 2, about 7 o'clock, in the 63d year of her age, at her late residence, 85 Dana Street. For several years diabetes had weakened her and kept her much at home, and recently Bright's disease attacked her. A recent fall upon the pavement, giving a severe nervous shock, perhaps hastened her end. Mrs. McCarragher was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of this city. When she knew the time of her departure was near, she looked toward the future without fear and with abundant faith. She died very peacefully, and during her last sickness suffered little or no pain. The funeral services took place at her late residence on Tuesday afternoon at 3:30.

**Attorney Dickson's Father Dead.**

Rev. H. S. Dickson, of Philadelphia, father of A. H. Dickson, Esq., of Wilkes-Barre, died at his home in the former city Oct. 17. Rev. Mr. Dickson was a native of County Down, Ireland, and was seventy-five years of age at the time of his death. He came to this country with his parents in 1824 and settled near Lanningsburg, N. Y., where, by his own industry, he accumulated sufficient funds to carry him through Union College and Princeton Theological Seminary. He then took up his life work of preaching, his first charge being in Mississippi. A little later we hear of him at Fort Wayne, Ind., when he remained several years, preaching with great success, erecting a fine church and performing other works that are greatly to his credit. He afterwards performed similar work in Utica, N. Y., building the Westminster Church. Shortly after he was injured in a railroad accident and compelled to give up active work, when he removed to Philadelphia, where he has continued to aid the good cause by wise counsel founded on long experience and a hearty interest in the work.

**Death of Mrs. D. A. Fell.**

On Saturday, Oct. 8, at 9 o'clock a.m., Elizabeth Gray, wife of D. A. Fell, Sr., died at her residence, 42 North Washington Street, of cirrhosis of the liver, after an illness of some six months. She was 51 years of age and is survived by her husband and two sons, Attorney D. A. Fell, Jr., and Dr. Alexander G. Fell. Her only other child, a daughter, Mary, died about two years ago.

The deceased was a daughter of the late Alexander Gray, of this city, was born here and passed her whole life in Wilkes-Barre. Of her family four sisters survive her, Mrs. Anna Brown, widow of the late Joseph Brown, of this city, and Mrs. Margaret Car-

penter and Misses Jane and Isabella Gray, of Princeton, N. J. Mrs. Fell will be greatly missed not only from the circle of her family, but by all her many friends. She had a kindly, gentle nature, warm hearted and affectionate. She was a consistent member of the First Presbyterian Church and professed the Christian teachings of her faith in all the occurrences of daily life.

The funeral took place at 3 p.m. Monday from her late residence, Rev. Dr. Hodge officiating. The interment was made in Hollenback Cemetery.

**Death of Mrs. Enterline.**

Death entered a Wilkes-Barre home Sept. 29 and robbed it of a kind and loving mother and robbed the community of a valued friend and neighbor. Mrs. Angie Enterline, widow of the late J. H. Enterline, of Dauphin County, and eldest daughter of the late Edward Enterline, of this city, died Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at her home on Ross Street. Her age was 39 years and death resulted from typhoid pneumonia from which she has been a painful sufferer. She is survived by five children, the eldest being a saleslady in the store of Isaac Long, a son being employed by W. M. Miller, and a third employed as a Record carrier. Deceased came here from Berksburg, Dauphin Co., nearly three years ago after the death of her husband. Deceased was a sister of Mrs. George Steidle, Mrs. C. Ben Johnson and George W. Enterline, all of this city. Mrs. Enterline was a member of the Presbyterian Church.

**Almost a Centenarian Fisherman.**

The venerable "Daddy" Emmons, the famous fisherman of Harvey's Lake is dead, his demise having occurred at Dallas on Sept. 14, at the home of a daughter, Mrs. Davis. A fortnight ago while walking on the streets of Dallas he was knocked down by a passing team, sustaining the fracture of a hip. At the advanced age of 82 such an injury could not be recovered from and he passed quickly away. As the *Leader* says, he went to Harvey's Lake from New Jersey about thirty-five years ago and ever since has been a prominent character at that favorite resort. Up to about two years ago he lived in a hut in a cove of woods on the banks of the lake, and was looked upon as the ideal fisherman of the neighborhood. He knew just where the finny tribe was most numerous, and seldom failed to make a catch when a proper effort was put forth. He taught many of the prominent men of his day the art of angling, among his pupils being the late Judge Paxson, of Philadelphia. Since leaving the lake he has resided with his daughter."















